WORLD SOCCER

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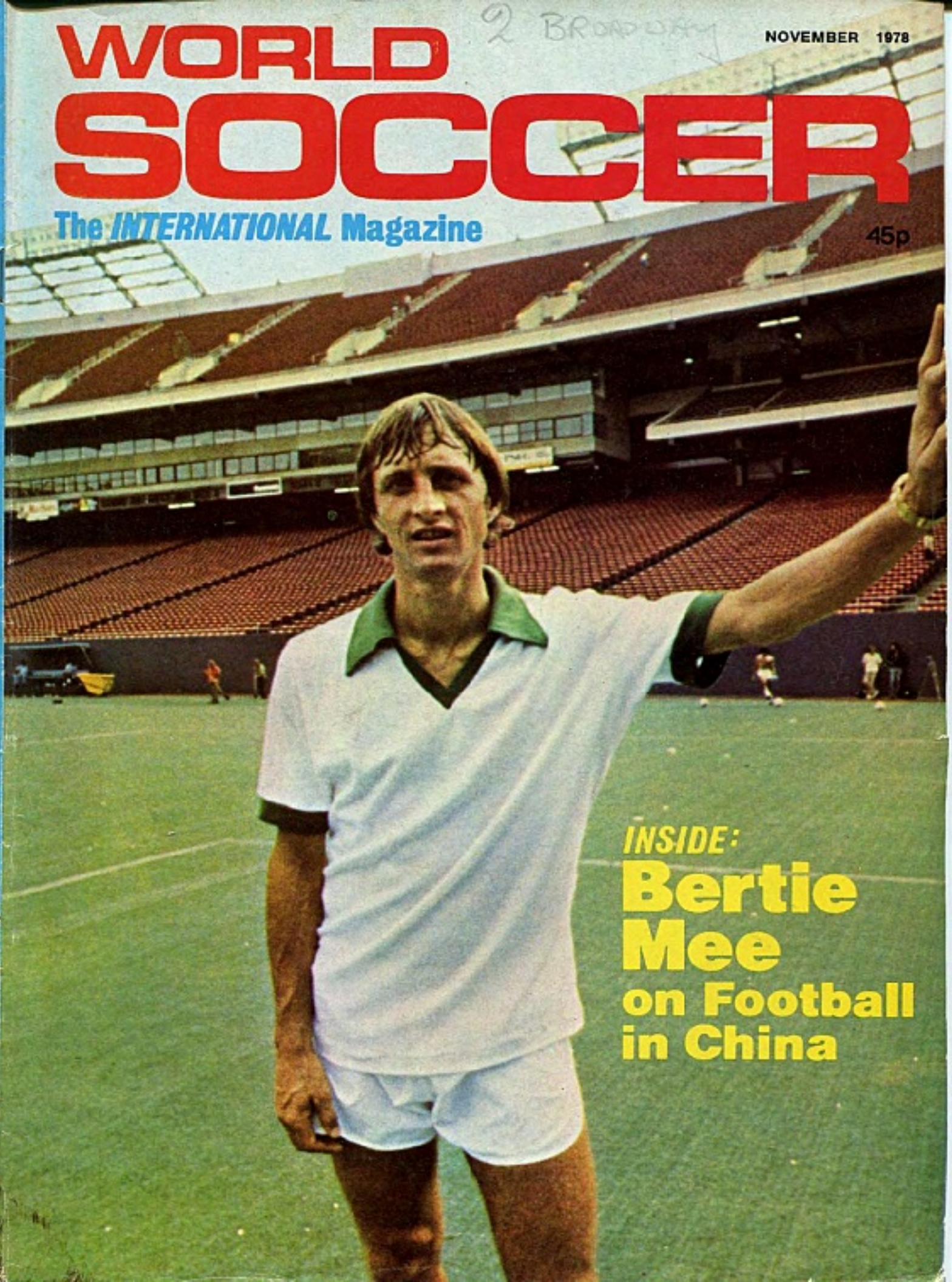

INSIDE:

Bertie Mee on Football in China

RAY WILKINS Chelsea

World SOCCER

DRAW FOR ENGLAND

RON GREENWOOD'S avowed intention of building a stable England is an admirable one. "The whole point," he says, 'is to develop something akin to a club side. We already have the spirit. Now we are improving the understanding between the players."

Mr Greenwood adds that "sweeping changes could wreck the whole set-up." The philosophy is encouraging but it would be more so if the stability being sought centered around the best players England and Ron Greenwood have available.

The 1-1 draw against Eire in the European Championship illustrated that too many players in the England team are not worthy of their places. Eire are no pushovers, they have quality players and a good understanding. But England were disappointing and it is no use pretending otherwise.

It is debatable whether Ray Clemence is a better goalkeeper than Peter Shilton. Personally I would prefer to see Shilton given a chance. It is the back four that causes the most concern; Phil Neal and Mick Mills are not, I would suggest, the best full backs in England and Emlyn Hughes, fine servant though he has been, is living on borrowed time.

In midfield, too, England could do better with Tony Currie an essential cog. Apart from his obvious class Currie scores goals, an ingredient sadly lacking in the current team. Steve Coppell performs a role Mr Greenwood likes and admires but if he defends and covers well his attacking skill has not developed as one would have liked.

Fortunately Ron Greenwood is a sane man who recognises that England are, as yet, not capable of beating the world. After England had taken an eighth minute lead against Eire through Bob Latchford further goals might have followed but Gerry Daly's equaliser rocked England's confidence.

A draw was a fair result and a point should be sufficient for England.

England's next full international is against Czechoslovakia. Mr Greenwood is unlikely to make sweeping changes, and understandably so, but the sooner players like Viv Anderson, Ken Sansom, Shilton and Currie are drafted into the side the better. Tony Woodcock, the elegant Nottingham Forest striker, is another who would benefit from an extended run in the team.

Mr Greenwood, however, will not be hurried. "Of course I'm aware of the youngsters challenging for places but their time will come by natural progression through the Under 21 and "B" team.

Austria's Hans Krankl (second right) with the "Golden Boot" awarded to him in Paris as Europe's top scorer last season. He netted 41 goals for Rapid Austria. With him are Carlos Bianchi (right) of Paris SG, Rund Geels (second left) of Ajax and Bob Latchford (left) of Everton.

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Front Cover Caption
Johan Cruyff, pictured in America before an appearance for the New York Cosmos. Cruyff's future is still undecided.

WORLD SOCCER apologies for the late publication of the October issue due to production difficulties.

WORLD SOCCER GOES B

Keir Radnedge talks to BERTIE MEE who visited China with West Bromwich Albion

ON OPPOSITE sides of the world two of the greatest of nations, the United States and Red China, are at last taking seriously to football in probably the sport's most important developments of the decade. The razzamatazz progress of soccer Stateside has been fully documented. Some would say that considering the standard it has been given far more publicity than it has hitherto deserved.

But while the Americans clearly have much to offer in terms of peripheral matters such as presentation and crowd comforts the Chinese have a distinct approach to the game itself which could be of far greater moment.

With my feet planted firmly in Watford — of all places — I was recently taken on a guided tour of Chinese soccer on behalf of *World Soccer* by Bertie Mee.

Once the double-winning boss of Arsenal, Mee retired in 1976 after 10 years in charge and is now assistant manager at Third Division Watford, the club whose ambitions have lately been fired by the enthusiasm of their more famous chairman, Elton John.

But aside from his duties at Watford, Mee's personal and business contacts made him the ideal liaison man when West Bromwich Albion passed through the Bamboo Curtain during the summer for a close-season tour.

Originally the Chinese, sending messages through a British import-export business, wanted an FA XI, but for various reasons — one of them that China is not in FIFA — that was out of the question.

But one of Mee's supporters in the bid to take a team to China was FA Council Executive member Bert Millichip and since Millichip is chairman of West Brom they were the obvious replacements.

It has to be said that at the end of a long season some players didn't appreciate the ambassadorial role, particularly when it meant some unhappily complex and tiring travel arrangements, but Mee saw the China excursion in a different light — naturally.

China has the world's largest population at around 800 million — remaining outside FIFA now only because of the complication of Taiwan. But at least FIFA president Joao Havelange has lowered barriers far anough to permit exchange visits of teams and coaches and while West Brom, Sporting Lisbon and Internazionale of Milan all visited China during the summer, the Chinese sent a team back to Europe to play several games in Italy during August.

From Mee's visit and the Chinese trip to Italy it's been possible to build up a remarkable picture of a country where the traditional league-and-cup pyramid of Europe doesn't exist.

There's no FA as such, either. Football in China comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Sport, with a football department headed by a Mr Chen, an 'international' outside right in the 1950s.

'Absolutely no dissent – marvellous!'

According to Chen, while in Italy, football was virtually unknown in China before the 1949 revolution, played as a middle class game only by students or civil service figures. There is no league competition because of the huge distances and climatic differences, but the winners of regional competitions have been meeting annually, usually in Peking, since 1951.

The competing teams are not clubs, but representative sides, of which the best now are Peking and Manchuria.

Professional football is, of course, unknown. But, as Mee told me: "Their top players are workers and students — but with privileges. But when I asked what training they did I was told: 'After working from seven in the morning to seven at night they go home — they are too tired for training for football."

Yet according to Chen 40 days' retiro is planned before the Asian Games, in Thailand in December. The rewards if they do well? Not bonuses, but merit certificates.

As in the U.S. so football is not the most popular sport in China. Basketball and volleyball vie for that claim, and the problem is one of facilities, for the Chinese with traditional diligence aim to utilise all their land to feed the people that doesn't leave much space for pitches.

As Mee said: "Even the traffic islands are cultivated."

Yet this is a nation with 20 million footballers — almost the size of the entire population of Argentina!

Young people enjoy two to four hours a week of sport in schools and colleges, but in Chen's words: "Sport

BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN

must progress with our economic development." As we will see, Bertie Mee thinks that is the inevitable pattern which can bring the Chinese to full international standard in 10 to 20 years.

It seems the key to progress is international contact. Why?

"The Chinese realise they have to become involved with the rest of the world if they are to improve and better themselves. Their players showed us a lot of good individual skill. But as far as team play and tactics go they are still very naive. You only learn to play 'without the ball' against class opposition, and that's what they lack.

"They were very good going forward. They are impressive in expressive situations but not so good or well organised going back. There's too much ball-watching and against a class team that becomes very obvious. One West Brom player in possession and the whole of the Chinese defence moved towards him and then, ping, away went the pass to someone with 30 yards of space and you'd see the Chinese start to move en bloc in his direction."

How would you compare this lack of international experience?

"South Africa, for example, have made no progress because they're out of FIFA and can't play other nations. And Australia have made little progress because there is no one in their area to stretch them and give them the incentive to get better. It's similar for Israel. They can't get enough opposition. That's why they are trying so hard to get into UEFA.

"They see Greece and Turkey, virtually next door, and they know that to progress they must have the competition they're not allowed in the Middle East. The complication is, of course, that if Israel get into UEFA, Egypt will want to as well and Libya and so on."

So what kind of standard have the Chinese achieved now?

"As far as technique is concerned I'd say they compare very favourably with Korea, both North and South. They're better than Australia and South Africa and about the level of the Norwegians or perhaps even the Swedes. Certainly they also compare favourably or more than favourably with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia."

What sort of tactics are their teams using?

"They play 4-2-4 but still to the kind of pattern the Brazilians were using between 1958 and 1962. They haven't cottoned on to ways in which to use men falling back to hold up the midfield, or methods of support off the ball. But morale is very high and discipline is good."

Can you tell us more about that discipline among players and crowds?

"There's absolutely no dissent. That was marvellous. I'd love to see that in England. It was so refreshing. And, another odd thing, there was no such thing as an injury during the game. If

someone went down play continued. They didn't take any notice and in time either the injured man got back to his feet and rejoined the game or hobbled away to the touchline. They never stopped play. I wish we could do that as well.

"It's well worth thinking about. It's an attitude that should be part of our game."

What about the crowds, the size and their reaction to the games?

"West Brom played four games in China, beating Peking 2-0, beating a China XI 3-1 in Peking as well, then winning 6-0 in Shanghai and 3-0 in Canton. Crowds were excellent. The matches began in late afternoon and the fans had been given time off work to come and watch, so I should imagine we were very popular visitors. In Peking there were 80,000 to watch the games.

"One of the funniest things to Western eyes was the method of travel. The only vehicles are official ones, or

goods vehicles and industrial equipment. Everyone travels either by bus or on bicycles. So there must have been 8-10,000 who turned up for this match in Peking on cycles. It was an amazing sight.

"You know, in China they measure affluence by wheels. The best is to be a five-wheel man — two wheels for a bike, one for a sewing machine, one in a radio and one for a wrist watch!"

And how did the crowds respond to seeing their teams beaten?

"There was no atmosphere at all at the matches. It was uncanny. It was like a reserve team match or a practice game behind closed doors. The players didn't like it one bit. People applauded, but that was all. In fact, if they started getting a bit too noisy there was a loudspeaker announcement to ask them to keep quiet while play was going on. It was treating football more like an art form than a sport.

"There was no emotional involvement. None of the letting-off steam we expect — indeed which we even encourage — in the West. Yet I'm sure this varies from place to place. In Canton, for example, everything was much more colourful than Peking. Perhaps that's because it's nearer the border and the West and the people have been more influenced somehow from Hong Kong. The fans there got much more tied up with the game."

Would you like to go back to China?

"Yes, no question. It was a fascinating experience. I expected it to be an oppressive Eastern European type of atmosphere. You know, people with long faces, grey buildings and so on. Instead we didn't get any sort of Big Brother impression. The people seemed happy, they could crack a joke, have a laugh. They looked drab when they were all going to work in their regulation suits, but once they got home they changed into much more colourful clothes.

Continued on page 10

WILL ENIGMA FIND HIS BA

by EDGAR CHEPOROV

AS I left the barbed wire-clad Belfast Airport some time ago the taxi driver, opening the cab door for me, asked excitedly: "Have you seen him, he's just in from London? He's going to play for our squad." Abandoning me for a moment, he dashed over to a crowd surging round a rather short chap with black hair who was smiling modestly as admirers patted him on the back.

Need I say, it was George Best, the super star. As we drove off the cab driver kept repeating: George'll do it. He's the boy for the goals!"

If a list of the most highly publicised names in public life were put through a computer George Best's name would surely be somewhere near the top of the most frequently mentioned in the press and on radio and TV in the past decade. For as one of th Pele-Beckenbauer-Cruyff galaxy he is as much of an attraction as the stars of stage and screen. His presence in any football side boosted gate receipts, and when he fell out with his club managers questions were even raised in Parliament.

Former Premier Harold Wilson used to write to him congratulatory letters on his game, and his fan mail was over 10,000 a week. One impassioned writer appealed: "George, help me! I'm ill, your touch alone, I'm sure, will cure me." For years, Best told me, he had never see the beginning or end of any film — he always had to enter and and leave when the lights were down to avoid the scramble for autographs. And when I went to his Belfast hotel to meet him I had to wait half an hour while he signed autographs in a businesslike, resigned manner.

"I like good restaurants, good food and the company of women," he said. "But when I've tried sometimes to call a girl friend to have a quiet evening with her in a nice restaurant and not tell anyone, there's always someone who finds out. I was used to the publicity and could take it, but not all the girls could."

It's all part of the football craze, a social phenomenon that is becoming increasingly pronounced. The latest World Cup matches drew a TV audience of almost 400 million, more than for any event in recent years. As they kicked off in the Scotland-Peru match I was driving into Glasgow. The streets, shops and buses were deserted. Suddenly the silence was broken by an outburst of cheering from a nearby pub — a goal for Scotland, of course. When Scotland lost the match, the local newspapers described it as a "national disaster."

In a letter to The Guardian one Glaswegian reader ironically summed up the press reaction: "The concept of sportsmanship has vanished from our world, having been replaced by a frenzied activity which seems to be a sophisticated 20th century substitute for the 19th century colonial warfare. It is just as unthinkable and unacceptable today that eleven Bonnie Scotsmen should be defeated (perish the thought!) by some wild men from Peru in South America as, some 100 years ago, it would have been unthinkable and unacceptable that a gallant British battalion should have been wiped out by a horde of screaming Dervishes in some Beau Geste location in North Africa."

Do people shoot their fellowmen because a ballet star is below par? Yet it happens every year in football. Some shoot at rival supporters, others simply out of spite against football. A woman in a French town is reported to have shot her husband dead because he ignored her repeated questions while he was watching the World Cup games on TV. When the Queen was on a state visit to West Germany a reporter quoted a German as saying: "You British have your Queen and we have our Franz Beckenbauer." And a Welsh cathedral has a book in which parishioners ask for prayers for the sick, bereaved and others in trouble with an entry imploring for prayers "for Manchester United to win the cup."

Speaking to Best about the iron railings put up around the Wembley pitch, about fans, who set fire to railway carriages and the bloodshed on the terraces, he said: "For most people football is like an escape, and that's probably why there is so much trouble at matches in Britain. People are too involved in it, it's often their whole life, and it is wrong to take revenge in this way."

I hadn't expected Best to come out with sociological explanations. But what did I really know about him? He was talented, self-willed, temperamental, a bit of a playboy, undisciplined. Yet here is something he let slip: "I'm 30 already, I'm still enjoying myself. The only thing I miss is kids. I love kids very much."

Adverts have tended to show Best with a triumphant grin and a demanding expression, as if to say: "Come on, buy it! A car, an ice cream, a pair of trousers . . . Why not?" Yet the Best I saw before me had serene blue eyes, a childish dimple on a rough stubbly chin, a pleasant smile revealing a row of strong white teeth — and no hint of conceit.

He sipped a Coca-Cola and switched the conversation just as unexpectedly as he would swerve on the football field:

"The football craze — it's the enthusiasm for football gone hysterical. But the game's become such a consuming interest to people all over the world because it's got everything. An hour and a half of non-stop action requiring balance, speed and fitness. To me it's the best sport in the world. In nine films out of ten you can tell how they will end, and a few pages of a book give you all you need to know. Football and sport in general capture your imagination because they are unpredictable, contrasting with everyday life where everything is programmed and planned in advance. I love football. I played for Manchester United for two years as a boy. At 17 I signed on as a professional and I've been playing ever since."

"Not tired of it?"

"No, before I used to play for the glory, now I play because I like playing."

"You say football takes balance, speed and fitness. What does that add up to in the end?"

"It's an entertainment, and I'm an entertainer. I can do things that excite people. For me, it's like being on the stage. There can be 40,000 people watching and I can feel they're enjoying it when I do things that are good. I like to make people happy, I suppose, and if I can do that I enjoy it."

"There is definitely a connection between football and art. If you watch any great player, say Pele or Cruyff, in slow motion, it's as beautiful as ballet, it's definitely a form of art for me. As you know, matches are sometimes like a play, complete with plot, climax and denouncement. Sometimes a match is rather like a detective story with an unexpected but logical ending.

LEADING PLAYERS

"You'll get a clash of characters and temperaments. If you take a closer look you'll see that many players have a touch of their own. Some are out for a show-down, confident of winning, others are more enigmatic. Still others are on the rough side. There are leading players and those who play supporting roles. I find it just as interesting — although a different kind of interest — to watch a footballer or a good actor."

Money is the over-riding motive behind all show business activity. It is not the altruist wanting to spread enlightenment who rakes in the money for televised football matches. Does it matter? After all, we only want to see the match. Even so, we may have no chance of seeing the event as it really happens.

Best spoke of football as a spectacle in the sense of it being original. Television, however, can transform the original into something quite different. It is a long-standing complaint that it tailors football to the standard of TV plays, with heroes and villains defined in advance, with all the highlights skilfully presented. TV needs viewers, and the adverts can be watched as keenly as the match. Even a second-rate match can be served up as a succession of dramatic episodes. One star can be made brighter than another or put in the shade if he does not conform to the required stereotype. Cigarette, whisky and car firms pay millions to TV companies, and, as The Observer has predicted, some sponsor is going to insist on "exclusive exposure" — the right to "buy" an entire event and shut out all others.

No one knows how much money George Best has made, but it is safe to assume that it is quite a lot.

ATIC BEST LLOON?

"When I started making money as a professional," he said, "I opened a sports shop with the signboard 'George Best.' Why? I had to think of the days when I'd have to leave football. Most players give up at 30 or 35 without a penny to bless themselves with. All they've been doing is kicking a ball, they've no other skills, and whatever money they may have earned doesn't last long. Then there is quite a different life-style ahead of them."

Best didn't become a businessman. The income from his shop and the night clubs he bought in in partnership with someone else was a mere trifle compared with his advertising earnings. Show businessmen were quick to realise that blue-eyed Best of Manchester United had the makings of an idol. Best is a self-made football star, but that was only the pre-condition, the starting point for his becoming an all-round show-biz star in no way inferior to the Beatles. While the Beatles created a new musical style of a generation, Best created a new style of game, doing much to raise the role of the individual and the personal touch.

Pop-music, film and sports idols are made after one pattern: they must all have some intriguing flaws in addition to merits. If they haven't such flaws then they have to be attributed to them. And it is the flaws, manufactured or otherwise, that make the news, the publicity and the money.

Best was seen as a man with a mind of his own when he was still 17. For all his passion for football, which brought him both money and fame, he later baulked at serving as no more than a cog in a goal-scoring machine. He quarrelled with his managers, walked out on his team, announced he would quit football and throw his money about.

FOOTBALL GENIUS

The world press made him out to be a layabout, a Don Juan in football boots. In that version he was to arouse greater public curiosity than as an orthodox football genius. As Michael Parkinson says in his book on Best: "He became Britain's first playboy soccer player and one imagined him scoring goals with one arm around a film star while flicking through a brochure for a holiday in Majorca."

This image, once designed, could then be put into production. With football taking a back seat, top priority was given to "the adventures of George Best."

"I liked to see my name in the papers in my early days in football," said Best. "But then it got too much for me — they write the good things about sports stars to get them to the top and then they want to knock them down again. When you are big you can sell papers for them and they love it, whether it's me or anyone else. They'd lay in wait for me outside restaurants and bars. I tried not answering their questions but it didn't help. Next day they'd say: "A friend of George's said so and so." They were always quoting other people, and I'd find a mass of details about my life in the following day's papers."

The admen, of course, could not overlook Best. A firm was set up with a monopoly on his name for advertising in the press, on TV and on branch labels and packaging. His face appeared on chewing gum, footballs, soft drinks and so on. Fame and money were chasing him, but according to his financial collaborators he was quite illogical in his behaviour and failed to make the most of his talent.

He was once flown to London by helicopter for a day to shoot a film commercial for a fee of £40,000. He duly arrived in London but promptly disappeared from his hotel. He is said to have turned down a quarter of a million pounds' worth of advertising. One view was that the whole thing was due to the "self-destructive" impulse deep in his Celtic nature, that he felt uncomfortable when things were going well.

What was the reason?

"Because it's boring to smile in an effort to prove how good a chewing gum is, because it's boring to wink at a camera, boring to waste your time on all that," he said. "When the commercial men annoyed me too much, I'd go into hiding.

"You know, I used to enjoy sitting with, say, Rod Stewart in a bar and having a talk. He'd tell me about football and I'd lecture him on music! That's not boring.

"I remember seeing a film about a man, quite well off, who found a balloon in his garden and flew off in it to the other end of the world beside himself with joy. He was sick and tired and everything. I sometimes wonder if I wouldn't do the same if a balloon like that came my way. But that's more easily done in the cinema than in real life."

True enough, Best did fly away, by plane to the USA, having broken with his sports and advertising bosses. But it was not because of any cynical approach to football. He resigned because he was no longer willing to play in the old-fashioned style required of him. A film company immediately offered him £60,000 to star in a film. Best refused.

For over a year Best has been playing football in America. He has again been the target for advertising agencies. As Allan Rothenberg, head of Los Angeles advertising firm, has said. "George is, of course, a great value in advertising. There's quite a demand for a commodity bearing his name, 'Best' . . . We've figured it out: Best will be advertising chewing gum, chewing tobacco, footwear and even spirits. And why not? This guy is a colourful figure. Americans like colourful figures."

Is Best prepared to join the gamble? A few days after Rothenberg's forecasts the "best US footballer of 1976 and 1977" was reported to have been fined and taken off the team for missing training sessions. There was a picture of George sticking out his tongue. Still hoping to find his balloon?

European Championship review by Eric Batty

TOO MUCH LIKE THE WORLD CUP

CONVINCED as ever that the 'draw' for all international competitions is not left to fate, it is not surprising that several countries complained about the pairings for the qualifying round of the European Championship.

Italy, of course, are already through to the last eight as the host country despite the fact that they have already had that privilege — which again smacks of privilege — and they will be joined by the seven group winners. Thus the final stages will, for the first time, see eight teams go to Italy instead of four.

One of the worst aspects of the qualifying round is that Spain, Rumania and Yugoslavia were all in the same group for the 1978 World Cup, as were Greece, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

Meeting the same teams again so soon is not a good thing from the public point of view for naturally they would prefer to see new faces.

But the most serious criticism is that where two teams played a nasty, bad tempered match, as happened with Spain and Yugoslavia, there is a danger that one or two players who get an unintentional early knock might well lose their tempers and take up where they left off last time.

A good referee would help to prevent that, but looking around, good referees are even more hard to find these days than good players and they are rare enough.

The qualifying games began even before the last World Cup but so far there have been only a relative handful of matches and West Germany do not begin their programme until next year — which is just as well for their new manager Jupp Derwall.

In Group 1 Denmark are already virtually out after dropping three home points and if England are my favourites they are certainly not going to find it easy against the two Irish teams.

The Republic of Ireland look the stronger to me, largely because of their greater strength in attack with Frank Stapleton and Steve Highway supported by Liam Brady.

Bulgaria have still to say their piece in this group but I have yet to meet a Bulgarian who was satisfied with their national team, and while they can defend with the best, they lack outstanding forwards.

England have improved beyond the wildest hopes of her supporters in the last year or so but if I have had doubts about the back four this was underlined by the match away to Denmark and I feel that sooner or later Peter Shilton will replace Ray Clemence in goal.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
N. Ireland	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Rep. of Ireland	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Denmark	4	0	2	2	9	11	2
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	2	2	1

My tip: England.

Group 2.

On paper this looks like a highly competitive group but knowing that Belgium and Portugal are both lacking in penetrative forwards I have to take Austria despite the fact that they have never impressed me.

Belgium under Guy Thuys are struggling up front, having relied too long on Raoul Lambert, the old war horse who seems at last to have come to the end of his effective days. All the best forwards in Belgium are foreigners and even FC Bruges are struggling.

Portugal had a rare squabble before settling on a new international team manager and while Sporting Lisbon have been importing foreign forwards for some years, Benfica have now decided to follow suit — if they can find the right man at the right price.

This leaves Scotland who have a lot of useful players but are rarely able to hit it off together.

They qualified for the World Cup, very largely because they were in a relatively easy group and all their frailties were exposed in Argentina.

Austria	2	2	0	0	8	2	4
Scotland	3	1	0	1	5	5	3
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Norway	3	0	1	2	3	6	0

My tip: Austria.

Group 3.

Except for the inclusion of Cyprus this is a World Cup qualifying group over again and as we all know Spain came out on top. But it was not easy and this time there are both Rumania and Cyprus who could conceivably pick up points at home to complicate things still further.

Spain looked a poor side in Argentina and nothing much has changed there, so it is up to Yugoslavia to prove herself.

I have always had a soft spot for the Yugoslavs who export so many good players but given eighteen months or so, somehow manage to find some more. If their FA had welcomed back manager Miljan Miljanic I would have tipped them more confidently but due to political bickering within the FA Miljanic was rejected.

I have always felt that Stefan Kovacs, the Rumanian manager, was over-rated and I cannot see them being anything but a possible nuisance to Spain and Yugoslavia.

The Spaniards have some good defenders, notably Migueli of Barcelona, but very little up front but it is time that Yugoslavia began to produce players again and I have a feeling they will.

Rumania	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Spain	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Yug'sl'ia	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

My tip: Yugoslavia.

Group 4.

This is another difficult group to assess with East Germany still not sure whether to go for skilful players or the hard working types and Poland very disappointing in Argentina.

In my view Jacek Gmoch, the Polish boss, went to the World Cup without having settled in his mind what his best team was but in addition it looked to me that Andrzej Szarmach (still the Poles most effective league scorer) and Grzegorz Lato are past their best.

On paper that leaves Holland looking quite the strongest team in this group but I have had reservations about Robbie Rensenbrink for some time and unfortunately it appears that Van Beveren and Geels are going to be omitted because they would not go to Argentina.

I have never fancied goalkeeper Piet Schrijvers but when it comes down to facing facts it seems to me that only East Germany might upset Holland. They might, but I don't think they will and with the new penetration of Swiss players lacking anyone who looks even half as good as 'Kobi' Kuhn I cannot see them being more than nuisance value.

Holland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Poland	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
E. Germany	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

My tip: Holland.

Group 5.

With Sweden and France in this group it still looks very ordinary to me despite the fact that they both reached Argentina.

The Swedish side was an ancient one and they will have to rebuild so while they took a flying start by drawing away to France I still think the French have an edge.

Luxembourg are in there only to make up the number, of course, and the Czechs have so many problems that while they may take the odd point from Sweden or France next year I cannot look upon them as serious contenders at the moment.

French idol Michel Platini has always seemed to me to be a vastly over-rated player but looking at it logically I feel they have the best balanced side and under Michel Hidalgo they seem to have rekindled some of their pride that has been lacking in recent years.

Sweden	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
France	2	1	1	0	5	3	3
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

My tip: France.

Group 6.

One of the biggest surprises of recent years must have been Finland's 2-1 win at home to Hungary though the Hungarians have creditably but unwisely punished themselves by suspending Andreas Toroesik and Tibor Nyilasi for one year.

I cannot see Greece making any impact, the Finns will be found out and at the same time Nikita Simonian seems to be doing a good job for the Soviet Union.

Hungary did beat the Russians in Budapest when they met in a World Cup game and I believe Lajos Baroti managed to instil some confidence into his players that the Magyars have always lacked against Russia.

With Baroti in retirement I cannot see his successor Ferenc Kovacs being able to exert the same influence and without their two best forwards it should be Russia all the way.

Per Roentved scores Denmark's third goal against England in Copenhagen but the visitors won 4-3.

Finland	3	2	0	1	6	9	4
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Hungary	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Greece	3	1	0	2	6	6	2

My tip: Russia.

Group 7.

On paper this looks like a doddle for West Germany but with Jupp Derwall taking over from Helmut Schoen after a disastrous World Cup it looks to me that he is in for a hard time.

Wales, Turkey and even Malta have made a habit of giving even the strongest sides a rough time when playing before their own crowds and Wales even drew 1-1 in Germany the last time they met.

Fortunately for Herr Derwall he has two friendly games lined up in which he should sort out some of his problems but Wales should get off to a flying start and brimful of confidence they could make the Germans sweat.

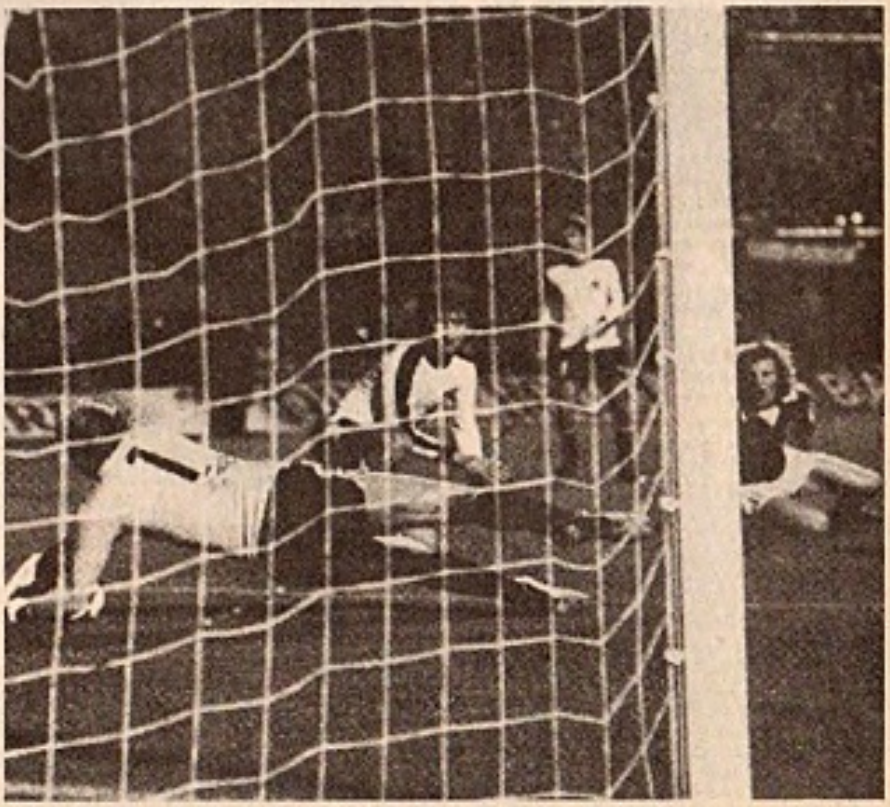
In the end it should all come right for Derwall but Wales can be expected to give them a rough ride.

Wales	1	1	0	7	0	2
W. Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	1	0	1	0	7	0

My tip: West Germany.

Looking back over what I have just written it stands out that I have not mentioned too many players by name and that underlines the dearth of top quality players that there are about at the moment. You need good players to make good teams and with all the will in the world I cannot see many excellent teams emerging to show up well in Italy.

I don't even have a great deal of confidence in the teams that I have tipped which means that Italy with all the advantages that accrue to the home side should do well in 1980.



Action from the European Championship match between Austria and Scotland which Austria won 3-2.

Continued from page 5

BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN

"They're a colourful people and an incredibly-organised people. In a country that size I suppose you have to be to achieve anything. But we could photograph virtually what we liked, you could walk anywhere you liked, you didn't have to be accompanied.

"The people all appeared happy and everybody works. Mind you, that might be a problem for them later. This is a digression I suppose, but they have 800 million people and you wonder what will happen as industrialisation increases."

Perhaps that will give them the opportunity to increase the emphasis on leisure pursuits and on sports such as football?

"That's possible, but not so much as leisure. I feel they will develop football first more as part of their physical education programme in schools and colleges. The big problem is this lack of facilities. You know that driving through Britain and Europe you see football pitches all over the place. We hardly saw any in China. Every spare piece of land was cultivated."

Are facilities for all sport so scarce?

"Well, they play a lot of basketball and volleyball and we went to see one fabulous indoor sports hall where all the facilities and even the seating were push-button controlled. It was incredible. Yet we went to a physical education centre and it was just the way someone described it who had been 10 years ago. It was really quite shabby. I've no doubt the instruction was of a high standard, but the equipment left something to be desired.

"It was odd, similar to the way they have produced an atom bomb yet you still see people on the land working with hand ploughs. They've got the technology but are still searching for the application."

So much for facilities. What about the games? How did they like West Bromwich?

"They were delighted because West Brom put up some good performances and the Chinese appreciated both their high standard and the difference in class. Now a return visit by the Chinese is being discussed."

Is it a fallacy to think they will have problems later in the World Cup because the Asian races tend to be smaller in build than Europeans or South Americans?

"We tend to think all Chinese must be about five foot two. They're not in fact. They've got a lot of big boys in their teams. Albion dominated in the air because that's a facet of the game in which we specialise. But there were three or four players whose ability appealed to me.

"We found that their approach was friendship first, competition second. But don't get the wrong idea that they won't tackle. They do. They have some strong players and they certainly believe that football is a bodily contact game.

"Fitness standards were quite good, though it's hard to compare, especially when one team is of a different class. That puts a lot of extra pressure on the weaker team and they have to do much more running around and obviously tire quicker. But basically, there's not a lot of difference, not a lot of ground for them to make up."

Jack Taylor, the 1974 World Cup Final referee from Wolverhampton, travelled out with you. How did the Chinese take him?

"Jack was a tremendous success. The Chinese knew about him because they'd seen all the instructional films and they wanted him to referee every game. But he had to call a halt. For one thing he got an injury — they tried acupuncture but it didn't really work — and for another he was doing teach-ins and lectures and he suddenly realised he wasn't watching any of their referees which was part of his role — to advise them. What we saw of their referees was of quite a good standard, though."

So to the big question. Forgetting about political problems of entering FIFA, how long do you think it will take China to reach international standard?

"Ten to 20 years — depending on how much they want to succeed. But they are making great strides in many other sports, particularly some of the Olympic disciplines. And they won't come out until they are ready.

"When they do they will surprise a lot of people. It all depends on how they develop their structure of football, facilities and in schools."

The problem about facilities was one experienced first-hand by Internazionale. In Hangchow there were no changing rooms at the ground and they didn't have as successful a time as West Brom. They drew 1-1 twice with China, actually lost 1-0 to Peking, and won 3-1 in Canton.

Sandro Mazzola, Inter's grey eminence now, came out of retirement to play on the tour and was, like Mee, duly impressed.

"I expected much worse," said Mazzola. "But they are well built for football and attack well. The players possess technique and fantasy but they've still plenty to learn in midfield and defence. They seemed mixed up tactically between man-to-man and zone systems."

Inter made a big fuss of the Chinese when they returned the visit in August, rating speedy forward Yung Chin-hang as the player most likely to be a success if it were possible to translate the Chinese into *Calcio*.

Yung, 30, almost six foot and reminding the Italians shudderingly of North Korea's Pak Do Ik, did not however live up to his promise in San Siro, where Inter won 6-2 with a five-goal star performace from Sandro Altobelli.

Not that this result seriously worried Chinese coach Nien Wei-Szu, a 44-year-old who played left half in 90 'Internationals' before studying soccer theory in Hungary for three years and taking over his present job 11 years ago.

"While my team continue to learn it does not matter to me whether we lose one game or five," he explained. "The important thing is that they play every match in the correct spirit and learn with every game."

Impressive sentiments. In China and the United States football is developing fast. Will they meet, one day, in the World Cup Final?

It can't be long before China enter FIFA at the expense of the Taiwan Nationalists. Listening to Chairman Mee it's clear that this vast nation who have offered so much to the world, have a lot to offer football too.

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This is No. 1 of a series of illustrations

STOCKPORT, ENGLAND

TARANTINI...

Keir Radnedge investigates

WHERE is the truth behind the remarkable transfer of Alberto Cesar Tarantini, once of Boca Juniors, to Birmingham City?

In the last couple of weeks I've been assailed with versions from both sides and nothing much makes sense apart from the basic facts about the player.

Even those are now clouded, thanks to the way the British Press eagerly seized on the simple angle that Tarantini was heading for Birmingham for love. Not love of Birmingham City that is, but for the love of his wife who, it was claimed, was virtually the subject of divorce proceedings by Barcelona.

I know it made good headlines. But I'm afraid that was no more correct than Barcelona's claim that Tarantini deal fell through because of a problem over terms (insinuating cash).

It's complex story, illustrating to the full how football is no longer at top levels anything to do with sport, but about money, image and cynical public appeal.

The major image is that of Tarantini, born on December 3, 1955, at Ezeiza, in the province of Buenos Aires, not far — appropriately — from Argentina's major international airport for which the flights from the United States and Europe set off.

Always his ambition was to be a professional footballer, always he was a Boca Juniors man.

He joined their youth organisation at 11, making his debut six years later in 1973 when his task was to fill the left back position held for a decade by one of the greatest of all Argentine defenders, Silvio Marzolini.

Marzolini had been Boca's captain and a star of the 1966 World Cup team. What chance did this curly-haired 17-year-old stand of filling those boots? What chance? Well now Tarantini is widely accepted as the world's best left-back, and he's still not 23.

Though Tarantini has occasionally played in midfield or at centre back, left-back remains his favourite spot though whether he is the man Birmingham, at the bottom of the English first division need, is another matter. I would have thought a Passarella type was more their priority!

Be that as it may, it was at left back that Tarantini played 23 times for Argentina's youth team, his career in this sphere reaching a climax with victory in the Toulon tournament in France in 1975. Among his team-mates were future World Cup colleagues in River Plate's Daniel Passarella, Talleres' Jose Daniel Valencia and Newell's Americo Gallego.

But Tarantini was not far now from the senior squad. He had already been included in Argentina's 40 for the 1974 World Cup in West Germany, even though he was rated still too young and inexperienced to make the last 22.

Nevertheless his time would come. In 1976 he was a stalwart as Boca took both the metropolitan and national championships — sharp and quick in defence, but skilful and speedy to switch to attack when Juan Carlos Lorenzo's men burst out in those devastating breakaways.

The following year Boca went one step further, beating Cruzeiro of Brazil to win the Copa Libertadores, the South American club championship. Boca had won 1-0 at home, lost 1-0 away, and won the Montevideo play-off 5-4 on penalties. Tarantini played in all three games and coped splendidly with Cruzeiro's right-wing attacking threat so dangerously reinforced by full back Nelinho.

But at the season's end at the year's close Tarantini had had enough of Boca. His contract was finished and he turned down their offer to renew. He wanted to continue his career in the far more financially-rewarding club world abroad. The chance of winning the world club cup with Boca didn't tempt him. But . . . he did want to play in the World Cup Finals, though at that time he wasn't first-choice left back.

That position was held by coach Cesar Menotti's squad captain Jorge Carrascosa.

Tarantini was in the squad and, suddenly, his chance presented itself when Carrascosa decided to walk out for family reasons. The Boca boy wasn't a unanimously popular choice. His attacking style had been roundly criticised by some sections of the Press and so now was his life-style — for Tarantini's new-found relationship with Maria Carmen Villanueva was becoming public knowledge.

'Pata' — an Argentine nickname for the youngest child — was a personality in her own right through work as a model, actress and singer. She was the daughter of Spannish immigrants *but* . . . she was really married to a Buenos Aires theatre director, Hector Caballero, by whom she had a two-year-old daughter.

Eyebrow

In Europe such a relationship wouldn't as much as raise an eyebrow. In Argentina the atmosphere was different. And that was one more reason for Tarantini to want to get away.

Menotti wasn't interested in Tarantini's private life or career ambitions, however. He required him for the World Cup Finals, and had long since had Tarantini's name inscribed in the list of players who could not be transferred abroad. In theory Tarantini could have been transferred to another Argentine club, but since he had made it clear he would be out of the country after the Finals no-one was willing to spend the money — particularly since Menotti's training plans meant he would be available only for a few matches in the spring.

The result was that Tarantini, without a club, had to be registered as a player of the Argentine football association when it came to compiling the relevant lists of 40 players, then 22, for FIFA.

On the eve of the finals the first reports began to circulate that he was on the wanted list of New York Cosmos. But, as Tarantini said, nothing could be considered until after the Finals and by then Cosmos' offer had been withdrawn.

Tarantini played in all Argentina's games in the Finals, starting uncertainly against Hungary and France and having a stinker — "My worst game in an Argentina jersey" — in the second round win over Poland. But it wa in the second round, too, that he enjoyed on of his most glorious moments, heading i Argentina's second goal from a corner in th goal-chase against Peru.

One more game to go, the final, and crowning victory in what was Tarantini's 34th full international. That figure, incidentally, have checked out with various local source and I'm sure it is correct. If Tarantini hac played in the 50-odd internationals claimed by Birmingham manager Jim Smith he would b the holder of the Argentine record, and everyone's agreed that this is held by Rene Houseman, with 49!

At last — Tarantini was free to move abroad.

So, after a short holiday-cum-business break in France, his arrival was announced in Spain where he began with first division club, Zaragoza. All seemed secure. Zaragoza appeared willing to pay the £250,000 tag on Tarantini's head — most of which was for the man himself — and the player appeared happy too.

Then, just as suddenly, the deal was off. Zaragoza claimed that £250,000 for the player before even negotiating a three-year contract was excessive. On the other hand, a friend of Tarantini claimed that Zaragoza's president, a builder, had offered a deal made up partly in cash, partly of the income from a block of flats — an idea in which Tarantini was not interested.

Next it was the turn of the Spanish champions and six-times European Cup-winners Real Madrid. They needed cover urgently at left back because of continuing complications over the serious injury suffered by Jose Camacho. Again talks proceeded smoothly until an abrupt halt was called.

Tarantini bitterly blamed a Press campaign stirred up around 'Pata', who had just blown into Spain and been widely interviewed about her relationship with the player.

Perhaps at this stage it would be best to review the complex situation regarding foreign players in Spain. Clubs can play two non-Spaniards, but as many players as they like who have taken Spanish nationality — and these are mostly South Americans who either claim Spanish parentage or who take advantage of dual nationality agreements under which they can take citizenship after two years in the country.

Mario Kempes, for example, has just taken dual nationality after having joined Valencia in 1976, so as to facilitate his club's ability to field both Rainer Bonhof and ex-Boca man Dario Felman.

But . . . after this season the Spanish federation are instituting a rule to stop use of this loophole. From the summer of 1979 Spanish clubs will be able to field only two players not qualified to play for Spain. That, of course, would have prevented Kempes's dodge because having played for Argentina he cannot, under FIGA regulations, appear for any other nation.

What is the truth behind his transfer?

What has this to do with Tarantini? For one thing, to play in Spain this season in the first place he needed either a club with only one foreigner or to find some Spanish background of his own. Since every club — except nationalistic Bilbao and San Sebastian — are covered for foreigners, the second alternative was the only one open to him.

As we've seen 'Pata' has Spanish parents, so the easy answer, apparently, was for her to marry Tarantini. They were in all other respects a married couple anyway, and 'Pata' is in fact expecting their first child now.

But Argentine law presented no means by which she could obtain a divorce from her first husband. So, under a loophole commonly used in such circumstances, she and Tarantini got their lawyers to arrange a marriage under Paraguayan law. Tarantini and everyone else assumed this would be enough to meet Spanish football rules.

It wasn't. Under the dual nationality agreement between Spain and Argentina, only 'Pata's' first marriage could be recognised.

As far as Spanish law was concerned, she wasn't free to marry Tarantini, and so Tarantini could not count as Spanish through marriage!

Ceremony

It was at this extremely complex stage that Barcelona stepped in with an offer. They already had Johan Neeskens and Hans Krankl, so the only way you can beat the two-foreigners rule, they told Tarantini, is with a Spanish woman in a marriage of convenience.

This could be done, they assured Tarantini and 'Pata', at no personal inconvenience. After all, since he wasn't considered married under Spanish law all he had to do was to go through a brief civil ceremony, sign a few papers and he would be free to play. His new 'wife' he needn't as much as see again.

There was even a volunteer waiting, a 26-year-old publicity agent named Maria Eugenia Ustarroz, a friend of one of the so-called 'legal advisers' helping Taramini arrange his transfer.

Tarantini even signed a contract with Barcelona, valid for one year *on condition* that he took Spanish citizenship. It was worth £60,000 and Tarantini was photographed in the Barcelona stadium, wearing Barcelona colours, training with the squad, while waited for all his documentation to arrive from Buenos Aires.

In the meantime Barcelona were being subject to more and more virulent criticism at the way in which they were so blatantly trying to take advantage of Tarantini and bend the rules.

They had a new president in Jose Luis Nunez, who was already struggling after discovering he had taken over a club with a £6 million debt, and his determination to make a good impression eventually led him to call off the Tarantini deal to put an end to the bad publicity.

There was also the consideration, of course, that as an Argentine international, Tarantini — had he signed — might well have had to be unloaded at the season's end anyway under the new regulations governing foreign players.

All in all, Tarantini was bad business for Barcelona and the deal fell through as much on these grounds as because of Tarantini's growing unease over the morals of the affair.

As this happened, so the advisers who had previously tried to help Birmingham sign Brazilian midfielder Dirceu tipped off manager Jim Smith that Tarantini was again on the market. Tarantini flew to England, quickly agreed terms, met his future Birmingham team-mates and returned to Barcelona to await news on a work permit application.

A matter of days later the British Department of Employment announced that players of proven international quality would be granted permits to play in the English League and so Tarantini's quest for a European club was due to end in — let's admit it — one of the most unlikely places.

Tarantini himself did not, of course, rush into the transfer blindly. He took the precaution of a phone call to Osvaldo Ardiles, to ask what it was like, living and playing in England.

Ardiles and Ricardo Villa at Tottenham have both had tactical problems, and Alejandro Sabella at Sheffield United has freely admitted to difficulties adjusting to the pace. But Sabella particularly has been warm in his praise of living standards and the fans (Would you believe?).

So, assured of a warm reception and looking forward to setting up home in a country where his domestic life need not be a cause of scandal and criticism, Tarantini's Odyssey is apparently at an end.

Or is it . . . ?

Tarantini (left) making his debut for Birmingham City against Tottenham Hotspur.

FRANCE

Strasbourg the team to follow

by Andre Duclos

FRENCH football, as you may have noticed, is having its ups and downs. Monaco went out very quickly to Malmo in the European Cup, though it was a close thing, and the international season did not have a brilliant beginning. Perhaps a reaction was inevitable after the colossal efforts made by Hidalgo's men in Argentina, the more so as despite the playing of so much good football, they ended in anticlimax. Even Strasbourg, who got away at a great lick, and did at least survive the first round of the UEFA Cup against another Swedish team Elfsborg, had to be content with a 1-1 draw at Bordeaux, a week after comprehensively beating Saint Etienne.

Still, Strasbourg this season have made themselves very much the team to follow, under the impetus of their manager, Gilbert Gress. Right winger turned inside-forward, over four years in the Bundesliga, Gress is thought by some to have developed there his predilection for Total Football. Certainly Strasbourg at their best come nearer to playing it than any other French club side. They really annihilated Saint Etienne in the first half of their League game, and a 2-1 success scarcely did them justice.

This is not a team of stars. During the close season of course it acquired a driving midfielder in Roger Jouve, while Gemmerich is a French international winger. Dropsy an international goalkeeper, but by and large the strength of the team lies in its collective merits rather than in individual brilliance. There are those who think it would be better with a star goal snapping centre-forward of the kind of Carlos Bianchi of Paris SG, but it is clear that Gress, rather like Roby Herbin at Saint Etienne before him, prefers a team effort in which the responsibility of putting the ball in the net is spread around as much as possible.

Gemmerich does that very nicely at times, and the crowds are certainly coming. There were no fewer than 35,000 at the victory over Saint Etienne; who rebounded the following week with five goals against Lille.

Difficult position

Has Jean-Michel's gamble at Paris SG worked? Has Larque, for so long the midfield motor of Saint Etienne, been right to abandon his managerial desk and come back to running the team on the field? The results have been so inconsistant that it is hard to tell. Good results at home tend to be sandwiched by bad ones away. Larque promoted an assistant coach in Alonso to manage the team, hardly a reassuring move, as it put Alonso in a difficult position, and left the club very thin on the ground at the junior levels.

A couple of goals by the eternally dangerous Argentinian Carlos Bianchi brought a victory over Valenciennes watched by only 12,000 people, a poor crowd really for Paris, but this was followed at once by a 4-1 drubbing in Marseille where the team was previously licking its wounds after being thrashed 5-0 at Nancy, where the little international right winger, Rouyer, ran riot, capping a coruscating display with a goal three minutes from the end.

Larque has run into a lot of criticism since he took over the club last season. This summer he went heavily into the transfer market, acquiring such players as his old colleagues at Saint Etienne, France's midfielder Dominique Bathenay, the international goalkeeper Baratelli, and Armando Bianchi, namesake of Carlos, for the left wing.

The results have scarcely been commensurate with the expenditure. Moreover, Paris SG have been criticised for thus barring the way to their brighter young footballers. It is as well for the 32 year-old Larque that he remains an astonishingly good midfield player, but the lesson appears to be that it is dangerous to appoint as your manager a famous footballer whose playing career has yet to run its course. Besides, playing in Paris is never easy; you tend always to be the focus, and things are made the harder now that there is a second First Division club in Paris FC. Still, it is a pleasing situation when you think of all the sad, barren years when Paris had no major club at all.

Yugoslavs continue to make a distinguished contribution to our League. The Lyon club and its players are delighted with their adventurous, powerful right-back, Rajko Aleksic. Now in his second season in France, the Yugoslav still has trouble with our language, but his unending, smiling goodwill allows him to get on well with all and sundry.

At Vojvodia, he was really a centre-half rather than a full-back, but he has made the transition with no great difficulty. He himself is full of praise for two of his compatriots, though he is a little surprised that Ivezic of Sochaux, with whom he used to play, should have got away this season in such a blaze of goals, since in Yugoslavia he was best known as a talented and subtle midfield player. Then there is another midfield player in Vukotic of Bordeaux, who arrived this season, who will bring, thinks Aleksic, a great deal to his new team.

Disappointed that for once Saint Etienne do not figure in any of the European competitions is their 21 year old midfield player, Jean-Francois Larios, born in Sidi-Bel-Abbes, found by that famous talent scout Pierre Garonnaire at Pau. We must, says Larios, strive to get back into Europe as soon as possible, as that is where you learn. It is his second disappointment, the first being the fact that after watching him play at Bastia, Hidalgo didn't name him in the original list of forty French players for the World Cup.

Yet Hidalgo had told him, Larios insists, that he played well that day. An ambitious young man, very honest and outspoken about his own performances. He admits that he had a poor game away to Lyon, but feels this was the only away match in which he wasn't satisfactory, while all the home matches he has played went well.

Larios is modest enough to dislike hearing that it is he who keeps the wheels turning at Saint Etienne, but now that Larque and Bathenay have both gone, his contribution is vital.

Piasechi of France

COSMOS TURN ON THE STYLE

FOR THOSE who went into misguided raptures about that untidy affair in Copenhagen between Denmark and England, it was perhaps unfortunate that Cruyff, Beckenbauer and the Cosmos should come to Stamford Bridge only six days later to show how the game can be played; if you are a great footballer. Claims for the supremacy of Keegan, splendidly though he played in Copenhagen, assertions of Simonsen's brilliance, seemed palpably misplaced, as Cruyff gyrated and Beckenbauer commanded. As for Butch Wilkins, figuring Chelsea's tattered, McKenzie-less, ranks, he was put utterly in the shade by both these remarkable men.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

What I have written about the Cosmos before has never been ecstatic, and I remain sceptical both about them and the NASL which (with the occasional 9-2 defeat) they dominate. Yet we must thank them for what they showed us — and a crowd of nearly 40,000 — at Stamford Bridge, even if they had the co-operation of a weakened inept Chelsea team, whose reluctance to play at the hectic pace of a League game left it technically and tactically exposed, easy victims for Cosmos' high skills, exercised without haste.

Who could forget Cruyff's astonishing sleight of foot in the first half when, boxed in on the left hand goal line, he suddenly brought one foot across and behind the other, and spun past a legitimately bewildered defender? Who can forget Beckenbauer's magisterial run half the length of the field, after half-time, a reminder of this extraordinary player at his best, and the more remarkable for the fact that Achilles tendon had latterly prevented him from playing more than half a game?

I remember, too, a delightful passage in the first half between Beckenbauer and Chinaglia, dropping deep, under pressure, passed the ball backwards to Beckenbauer. Beckenbauer, with infinite calm, a man with super abundant time on his hands, simply waited for Chinaglia to move forward again, and almost disdainfully rolled a short, perfect ball into his path.

Eddie Firmani, Cosmos' beleagured manager, said afterwards that Beckenbauer had been making many runs such as the one we saw at Chelsea from centre midfield, but the truth is that Beckenbauer hates playing there, has said that if he is made still to do so, he will seek another club, where he can operate as sweeper. Not easy, when Carlos Alberto has had such a splendid year for the club in that position; but then you can scarcely move, at Meadowlands, without falling over a famous (or notorious) sweeper. Giuseppe Wilson of Lazio was co-opted by the club during the summer, though he never played in his Lazio role.

By the time you read this, Cosmos may or may not have appointed a successor to Firmani, whose difficulties I foreshadowed after a spell in the Cosmos dressing-room, last March. There, in that Tower of Babel, where massive egos existed apart, like so many giant icebergs, Firmani sat in a corner of his own dressing-room, muttering unhappily, "Gypsies, gypsies!" Whatever huge sum he earned, it was clear that by the time the season ended, he'd have done so ten times over.

Still, Cosmos retained their title, acquiring Wilson and Portugal's Seninho on the way, and Firmani, after brushes with Beckenbauer and the kingmaker, Chinaglia — who had him appointed last year in succession to England's Gordon Bradley — remained in office. Came the tour, that monumental mistake, that bizarre attempt by the Cosmos' rulers to recoup as much as possible, as fast as possible, of their huge investment. It was surprising, given that the men in charge are the Turkish brothers Ertegun, each a connoisseur of international football of wide range and long standing, that so bizarre an enterprise was undertaken. Tired, disaffected, disconsolate players were packed off to Europe, thrown into the lions' den of such as Bayern Munich, where they conceded seven goals, and VfB Stuttgart, where they conceded another six.

They might not have done very well even against this feeble Chelsea team had Cruyff and Steve Hunt not been called to the colours. For Steve Hunt, indeed, much must be forgiven the Cosmos. If they have taken so much for world football at large, here is a case emphatically of their giving something back. The fair haired Hunt looked an excellent player at Chelsea, not at all unworthy to figure in such distinguished company, well able to respond to the promptings of Cruyff, taking up positions on the left, sometimes deep, often advanced, and using the ball with great precision. It was his good, long centre, indeed — Bonetti should have saved it — which made Cosmos' goal for another English winger, Dennis Tueart.

Obliged

Hunt, as we know, went to Cosmos as an Aston Villa reserve, unable to find his way into the first team. Eddie Firmani says that when he arrived at Cosmos, Hunt was expected to play deep left midfield, thus virtually being obliged to do two men's work — rather, it seems, than to play as a deeper lying striker, in the manner of Mario Kempes, in Argentina. Firmani pushed him up into an orthodox left winger's role, and the benefits were immediate. Cosmos got only £40,000 from Coventry for Hunt, who is obviously worth a very great deal more, but the understanding is that if Hunt ever returns to the Cosmos, it will be for the same small sum. Clearly he is worth six or seven times that sum, and Ron Greenwood's interest in him does not surprise me.

The loss to the 1978 World Cup of two such stars as Cruyff and Beckenbauer was cruelly underlined by their display at Stamford Bridge. There was simply no one in Argentina to touch them, and their respective teams suffered dreadfully from their absence. Though there was reason to believe that Argentina were going to win the tournament by hook or by crook, it is hard to imagine their defeating a Dutch team that included Cruyff; the more so as they had such enormous trouble in defeating one without him.

As for Beckenbauer, he would have transformed a West German team which eventually slunk out of the competition, beaten by Austria in most embarrassing circumstances, negative to a disgraceful degree against Italy when, as Franco Causio so aptly said, they "built the Berlin Wall in Argentina." Even Mario Kempes, the acknowledged hero of the competition, does not remotely exist on the same plane as Beckenbauer and Cruyff.

Season

Of another World Cup hero, there was sad news early this season. Little Paolo Rossi, the revelation of the Italian attack, severely treated by the Fiorentina defender, Tendi, in a pre-Championship game ("He should be a metal mechanic," Rossi said, bitterly) was worse treated still when Lanerossi Vicenza met Dukla in Prague in the UEFA Cup.

A Czech called Macela kicked him all over the show, and the consequence of it was a knee in plaster, keeping him out of the game for weeks, and causing him to miss the international matches against Bulgaria and Turkey.

Rossi, one of the world's endearing innocents, said that he knew he would have to expect tough treatment after so much publicity, but the horror of it was not that people were trying to stop him scoring; they were even trying to stop him playing. He was quite happy to accept hard tackling, it was part of the game and he didn't mind it at all, provided it were fair. What he did resent was deliberate attempts to cripple him.

And so say all of us. Players of the quality of Cruyff and Beckenbauer, players, on a somewhat less elevated plane, of the quality of Rossi, enhance football and our own enjoyment of it. The Tendis and Macelas of the game are a menace not only to their victims, but ultimately to us all.

That Rossi is one of those rare beings who turn the other cheek, being quite incapable of retaliating in kind, makes the thuggery of such as Macela the more abominable. Alas, those who meekly and nobly put up with maltreatment — as Rossi does, and as Pele didn't — tend to find that justice is not of this world.

GOAL FAMINE HITS BRAZIL

WHILE players threaten to go on strike and most of the clubs are bankrupt in Rio, a new way to avoid Brazil's goal famine has been thought up in Sao Paulo. During the current Sao Paulo state championship — from which both Brazil's national championship finalists come (Guarani and Palmeiras) and where, it is said, the best soccer in the country is currently played — an experiment is being made of not awarding any points to teams playing a 0-0 draw.

While several Rio clubs owe their players' high salaries, the players are also not satisfied with the poor state of fields and sanitation in changing rooms. Players Union secretary Ze Maria, of Vasco da Gama, says 90% of the fields are traps to get injuries because of the holes while changing rooms are a scandal. "Sao Cristovao's has a hill in the middle," says Ze Maria, "which makes me look like a giant when I stand on it, while at Bangú, for example, the ball will rarely go out when kicked along the ground, because the field is like a bowl."

Some time ago it was rumoured that strong Cruzeiro — the 1976 Libertadores Cup winners and last year's finalists — would, in an unprecedented move, join the Rio league to get stronger competition than in their own Belo Horizonte state league and also to inject some new interest at Rio. For the moment they have done the next best thing — saving Sao Cristovao from extinction by playing in the Rio league under the latter's name with reserve players. They didn't start too well, losing 6-0 to Flamengo.

Rio club Vasco da Gama have however struck gold by selling 25-year-old midfielder Dirceu — considered to be Brazil's outstanding player in the last World Cup — to America of Mexico for 650,000 dollars. But when the transfer goes through, 250,000 dollars of that is apparently going to the player in whom Birmingham City had also shown interest and who, with America, will get an annual salary of 54,000 dollars for a two year contract.

In Argentina:
BOCA JUNIORS TOP "UNFAIR" CONTEST

Boca Juniors continue to lead the Metropolitan First Division (by three points) as closest challengers Quilmes and Racing Club continue to falter.

Modest second place Quilmes, a small club having its best season ever, fail to impress as they are quick to back pedal to defend slender leads, but they were unlucky not to beat the leaders at home in the recent 0-0 draw. Racing have had a lean time since they jointly topped the table in mid August, having only won two of seven games — 1-0 v Huracan's reserves and 3-0 v next to bottom Platense who had three players sent off. In Diaz and Avallay they have dangerous scorers, as shown at times, but they often lack backing as the team is disorganised.

Huracan returned from their European tour just in time to put their best players back in the league to pick up six points in five games to move away from the relegation zone. The World Cup winger Houseman, handed a hef but undisclosed sum to change his mind abo wanting to move into English soccer wi Middlesbrough, scored five of the seven goa since his return.

River Plate, the league champions, hav however continued to field reserves sinc returning from a one-month European trip a they prepared for the semi-finals of th Libertadores Cup which they have set thei heart on winning for the first time. River hav failed to win any of their last seven leagu games, dropping to halfway down the tabl since topping it just before the World Cu when the tournament went into recess. Thei coach, Angel Labruna, has been called before the disciplinary committee for publicly stating that the championship is of no interest to anybody.

River Plate did field their top team once lately — against relegation threatened Chacarita Juniors which brought protests from that club, alleging that it was a "vendetta" because Chacarita had voted against allowing River Plate to go on tour while the championship was in progress.

As it turned out, Chacarita Juniors won that match 2-1 and won it well, but the club nevertheless has a point. Next to bottom Platense were lucky to face River Plate's and Boca Juniors' reserves in two games running (while the latter were drawing 2-2 with the Cosmos in New York) and took three out of four points . . . which makes the relegation issue quite unfair.

It is not World Cup players who are standing out in league games either. Midfielder Berta has just helped seventh placed Newell's Old Boys to a 10-game unbeaten run with outstanding performances which outshine World Cup half Gallego who plays next to him. But Newell's are drawing too many games (15 in 28) and scoring too few goals lately to mount a serious challenge.

Striker Fortunato — who's pre-season move from Quilmes broke the price record for internal transfers — and midfielder Hernandez are having a lot to do with Estudiantes de La Plata moving out of the relegation zone with five wins in a row, while 17-year-old international Maradona (who did not play in the World Cup but should star in the forthcoming Junior World Cup) is turning in outstanding performances for little Argentinos Juniors. (Banned from being transferred abroad as he is in the Junior World Cup squad, unsettled Maradona is now the subject of transfer talks with Boca Juniors, but his skills might be blunted by the latter's style of play.

LEFT: Independiente goalkeeper Pogany takes the ball off Salguero's feet in the match against Boca Juniors while defender Pagnanini (left) protects him. RIGHT: League top scorer Outes (left) scores for Independiente in a night match against newly promoted Estudiantes BA watched by only 38 paying spectators.

SOUTH AMERICA
by Eric Weil

This first attempt at making the Uruguayan season more interesting got off to a disorganised start with the top four promotion clubs still not decided and First Division vice-champions Nacional on tour while the first four matches were played.

The two 10 team sections in which the championship is played were not even decided until then, but now everything seems to be in order . . . except that Sud America (seventh in the first Division) lead section A with champions Peñarol in fourth place two points behind, while promotion winners River Plate top section B in which Nacional are eight points behind next to bottom, but with games in hand. But while there may be more variety, the soccer is no better and there have been big scores and one sided matches, specially when First Division clubs meet non-league clubs from the provinces.

In Uruguay:
A NEW EXPERIMENT

Uruguay took the first steps towards a national championship by enlarging this year's Major League — second championship of the domestic season — to 20 clubs, including apart from the usual 12 clubs which have just finished the First Division, four of the strongest from the provinces and the top four of the Promotion (Second) Division.

ELSEWHERE . . .

PERU'S champions, Alianza Lima, after safely reaching the South American clubs tournament semi-finals, shot up the league table to within a point of leaders Juan Aurich who have played a game more.

Alianza, who field eight World Cup players and are coached by former Uruguayan World Cup coach Eduardo Hobberg, have now gone through eight games unbeaten, winning seven of them — the last two with a reserve team (which beat joint second Melgar 3-1 just before press time) while the club started participation in the South American tournament's semi-final stage.

CHILE'S First Division leaders Palestino, representatives of Santiago's Arab community, have just lost two games in a row after going through over 40 unbeaten, but they still lead newly promoted Cobreloa by three points with 10 games to go.

Actually Palestino have three defeats registered in 24 games in this year's First Division table, but they "lost" a third game on a rule infringement after winning it on the field.

BOLIVIA'S one year old Professional Major League, formed by the strongest clubs in the country in a break away last year, is not producing the better soccer hoped for, nor increasing gates.

After the championship was started this season, then stopped with eight games played (which were annulled) and restarted under a different system, the first half has just been completed with last year's champions, The Strongest, and 1976 champions Bolivar (both from La Paz) fighting it out at the top.

(• See League Tables under classified results)

Atlanta's leading scorer, Salomone, gets past Boca Juniors defender Pernia — the man who was sent off against England last year. Pernia recently walked out of one game to take part in a car race for which he was fined 20 per cent of his salary by the club. He was sent off in the next game and suspended for 12 games by the FA.

• So now we know what it costs to win the World Cup. Argentine FA president Alfredo Cantilo says that over all expenses and upkeep of the national team since it went into intensive training (confined to a training camp) in mid February until the end of the World Cup ran to approximately 500,000 dollars. This does not include bonus payments to the players which will be paid out of Argentina's share of the World Cup proceeds once these are handed over by FIFA.

Meanwhile the Argentine FA has accepted a proposal from West Germany to play an international on September 12 next year. At national team coach Cesar Menotti's suggestion, the FA will try to arrange matches against England, Scotland and Italy around the same time.

• The Brazilian Sports Confederation, in charge of professional soccer as well as all other sports in that country, has named Mario Trabaglini as technical supervisor to watch promising newcomers with the 1982 World Cup in view. He has been entrusted with forming a junior team which will eventually represent Brazil in the next World Cup.

Confederation officials say they do not want to commit the same error of getting together "tired and burnt out players" at the last moment, nor improvise techniques as was the case under coach Claudio Coutinho before the recent World Cup. They have also completely foresaken Coutinho's idea that "in modern soccer the individual talents of players do not count for much", specially after the appearance of a number of previously ignored ball artists who helped to take modest Sao Paulo league team Guarani to the last Brazilian national championship.

• Uruguay's new FA president, Yamandu Flangini, said that no coach will be engaged abroad to take Uruguayan soccer back to its former standing. With this, one of his first announcements, Flangini annulled negotiations in progress under his predecessor with former Uruguayan international, Jose Santamaria, who lives and works in Spain.

MALTA

Beware the trap Wales!

Wales entertain Malta in the European Championship on October 25 and if the two teams have never met before, a good guide to the outcome can be gauged from England's experience when they met Malta in 1971.

In Valetta, England struggled to win 1-0 but a few months later at Wembley it was one way traffic to the Maltese goal and despite the fact that the visitors played with a packed defence and seldom got in England's half, the result was a clear cut 5-0 win for England.

This has been the way of things since Malta first started playing internationals in 1957 with the poor playing surfaces troubling the visitors and Malta not playing very adventurously even at home.

With their tiny population Malta cannot hope to compete with the established giants of the European game and there has been talk that Malta would withdraw from competitive matches and play only against teams of their own standing.

But this would rob the Maltese fans of an occasional look at the big name players in the game and for the moment it is only a suggestion.

The Maltese fans regularly see Italian League football on television but if they only played against other minnows, the public would not turn out in force as they have done for the visits of teams like West Germany and England whom they have met in competitive games and this would rob the Malta FA of their biggest single source of income.

Malta have come up against Wales once before — in a Youth international in 1975. Their results went much as expected with Malta winning 1-0 at home but being beaten 4-0 at Wrexham.

Over the years Malta have won several matches and having held both West Germany and England to 1-0 wins, they are a trap for the unwary but the fact remains that even at home they have never beaten anyone of any significance as the list of home victories below clearly underlines:

1958 Won 3-0 v Denmark
1960 Won 1-0 v Tunisia
1966 Won 1-0 v Libya
1973 Won 2-0 v Canada
1975 Won 2-0 v Greece (European Championship)
1978 Won 1-0 v Tunisia

Away from home the Maltese have usually been seen off quite comfortably but against developing countries they have recorded two away victories that are regarded as red letter days in football circles on the island, even though the opposition was not good. In 1966 they beat Libya away by 1-0 and in 1977 they won away to Tunisia by the same score.

Clearly the Welshmen should win this match at home though the winning margin will depend on how well their players cope with the Italian style defence. Malta's manager is 50 years old Victor Scerri who took over last July. A teacher of Physical Education, he is only a part timer and is something of a rare bird in managerial circles in that he was a goalkeeper.

Most of his career was spent with Sliema Wanderers, one of t Island's old established clubs and he had the distinction of playing f Malta in their first ever game at home to Austria in 1957, which they lo by 3-2.

Mr. Scerri has managed several First Division clubs in Mal including his old club Sliema, and had a brief spell in the early seventi in charge of the national team.

On last seasons form one of Malta's best players seems likely to b John Holland, captain of the side and current 'Footballer of the Year' Malta. He plays for Floriana, one of the old established clubs.

Another player who could prove useful is striker Raymond Xuere who had a trial with Newcastle United last season.

Malta's probable team:

Frankie Grima (Valletta) 21 years/2 caps Goalkeeper
George Ciantar (Floriana) 25/8 Defender
Emmanuel Farrugia (Valletta) 21/ Defender
John Holland (Floriana) 25/17 Defender
Oliver Losco (Sliema Wanderers) 24/9 Defender
David Azzopardi (Sliema Wanderers) 25/9 midfield
Denis French (Valletta) 26/6 midfield
Vincent Magro (Valletta) 24/12 Forward
George Xuereb (Floriana) 28/8 Forward
Raymond Xuereb (Floriana) 26/2 Forward
Carlo Seychell (Valletta) 29/16 Forward
Others who might play:
Robert Gatt (Floriana) 30/16 Goalkeeper
Tony Zerafa (Hibernians) 25/2 Defender
Simon Tortell (Sliema Wanderes) 19/1 Defender
Richard Agullina (Sliema Wanderers) 25/7 Midfield
Frank Micallef (Floriana) 33/19 Midfield
Leonard Farrugia (Valletta) 23/3 Forward
Ronald Cocks (Harmun Spartans) 35/21 Forward

Mike Smith — Manager of Wales

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KEEGAN NOT HIGHEST PAID STAR

WEST GERMANY

by Arthur Rotmil

WEST GERMAN footballers are easily among the top earners in European soccer. Some former and present internationals collect as much as £100,000 a year from their basic contracts alone. Others approach this remuneration through crowd or win bonuses.

The England forward Kevin Keegan, who earns £90,000 a year with Hamburger SV is not even in the top bracket which includes Gerd Muller, Sepp Maier, Jurgen Grabowski, Berti Vogts and Paul Breitner, to mention just a few. The money to pay these superstars doesn't come only through the turnstiles; it is earned from advertising not just on the hoardings inside the ground, but on players' shirts.

This trend was started five years ago by Eintracht Brunswick who even changed club's emblem to that of a well known wine a spirit manufacturer whose symbol they n wear on the jerseys. Currently 16 out of First *Bundesliga* clubs advertise products name of the manufacturer — only FC Colog and Schalke refuse so far to let their play become "living hoardings". In addition, tw thirds of the 40 Second *Bundesliga* clubs al signed contracts with various sponsors. A told, some £2 million is thus pumped into t West German League clubs a year.

The biggest earners in this field are Borus Monchengladbach who for £190,000 p advertise a company making heati appliances using natural gas. Next con Bayern Munich who gave up their contra with "adidas" and now display the name of famous maker of heavy goods vehicles f £150,000. Hamburger SV follow with £125,0 from a Japanese electronics firm. The lowe paid, promoted 1. FC Nurnberg, receive ju £25,000 also from an electrical goo company. Other companies products, public services named on various clubs' jerse include optical instruments, car component insurance, brewery, textile works, soft drink and even jewellery.

The main source of income remain of cours the attendance. Last season's total of 8,043,00 brought an average of 26,270 a match, ver close to England's First Division and third bes in Europe (Italy leads the way). The Germa crowds still turn out in force on specia occasions, like the scoop by Bayern Munic who entertained New York Cosmos wit Franz Beckenbauer. A crowd of 79,000 cam to the Olympic stadium to see the "Kaiser" bu stayed to cheer Bayern's 7-1 win. Gate receipt were £300,000!

Directives

Bayern have been doing very well in the League helping to second place, behind Kaiserslautern and by beating Arminia Bielefeld scored their first away win since November 1976! But they crushed out of the DFB-Cup to Second Division VfL Osnabruck by 5-4 at home!

VfB Stuttgart also invited the Cosmos and slammed them 6-1 (Hat-trick by Volkert). The crowd of 55,000, like those fans in Munich, terribly disappointed in Beckenbauer, who now at 35 is obviously was past his best. For good measure even the Second Division team Freiburg SC beat Cosmos 2-0.

The new directives issued by the DFB that players active abroad can still be called up into the national team, have pleased the public. National team manager Jupp Derwall didn't lose much time; he flew to Spain to see two German internationals, "mercenaries" Uli Stielike (Real Madrid) and Rainer Bonhof (Valencia), in opposition.

Derwall has already been scouring the country looking for fresh talent for his first selection which will play European champions Czechoslokavia on October 11, in Prague, in a friendly. At the moment the best player in the *Bundesliga* is undoubtedly Bayern's Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, whose brilliant displays were instrumental in the Bavarians climbing the table.

West Germany and Bayern Munich goalkeeper Sepp Maier.

Kevin Keegan, pictured during an England training session.

Champions Cologne confirmed what everybody fears about them: The team is erratic and unreliable, little is seen of Dieter Muller, who was even relegated to the newly created reserve team in order to "re-awaken his appetite for the game", as manager Hennes Weisweiler had put it. The Belgian Van Gool is right off form, and the Japanese Okudera has become too ponderous to be considered a great striker.

This leaves the new talent Pierre Littbarski (18), a junior international of whom a lot will be heard in the near future. The youngster was already called up into the B-squad which played the full national side of the Republic of China, winning 4-0 thanks to a hat-trick by Klaus Toppmoller in seven minutes!

The recent public clashes between Kevin Keegan and his club Hammersburger SV have received a new twist with Keegan's open letter to the "Kicker" (West Germany's largest and most authoritative sports paper). In it the England forward asks reporters to leave him in peace and to concentrate on writing about his soccer exploits. He points out, that the Hungarian-born Guyla Pasztor is not and never has been his "manager" and is therefore not entitled to make statements on his (Keegan's) behalf.

I am afraid that the likeable Keegan has brought a lot of the present trouble onto himself. In a sheer never ending stream of "exclusive" revelations in an English Sunday paper he has publicly castigated his team colleagues, accusing them of cold shouldering his efforts.

He has also repeatedly stated that he wants to leave Hamburg, and if possible before the transfer period ends there on December 31. His commercial contract with a French equipment firm and rumours of contacts in Spain (Real Madrid?), have also not helped his image (off the field) in West Germany.

At the start of the season came the strange refusal to travel to Yugoslavia. "I was beaten up badly by the Yugoslav police on my last visit there", Keegan was reported as saying — without explaining why he had that brush with the authorities there.

The "Kicker" refreshed his memory: in June 1974 Keegan and some members of the England party waiting at Belgrade airport began dancing on a conveyor belt bringing in the baggage and refused to stop despite warnings from the staff. The Yugoslav police quite naturally took them into custody from which Keegan was released and no charges were pressed. Next day Keegan played and in fact scored for England in that 2-2 draw. It hardly fits the description of a man who was "beaten up and bleeding"!

Keegan's inaccurate version of the incident, however, has prompted some German journalists too deduce that he is now at odds with Hamburg's team manager Branco Zebec, who is a Yuoslav and allegedly upset at Keegan's seathing remarks about his countryman. Quite properly general manager Gunter Netzer reminded Keegan of his responsibilities to the club and as a matter of principle he will not be released from his contract in Hamburg until his contract runs out in June next year.

Tempted

After that I very much doubt if Hamburg will want to keep a man who for all his soccer talent has obviously a lot to learn about human relations. One is tempted to ask whether Keegan's old club Liverpool, or for that matter any other English First Division club would tolerate a player who constantly denigrates its personnel and demands a transfer in foreign newspapers?

Now some German journalists are sarcastically saying that if Keegan wants to make money out of writing, then he should join one of the big papers in Britain — there are enough in that specific category who will welcome his services!

Keegan is playing very well for Hamburg, that is true. But it is also undeniably true that since he joined them the team has never reached the peak of 1976-77, when they won the Cup Winners Cup. Last season they finished 10th in the *Bundesliga*, their worst placing for four years! And Hamburg failed to qualify for any European competition, nowadays the first priority for German clubs so conscious of their financial status.

Feeble

Furthermore Keegan is causing unrest and has upset the whole team with his assertions that his team mates "will not play with me". Manager Branco Zebec has no doubt that this is just a feeble excuse by the Englishman who he believes is keen to cash in from yet another transfer and is simply "stirring it up."

The German Press are asking now: "If anybody in the Hamburg side wants to play with Keegan, then how come that he has been performing so brilliantly week after week? On his own perhaps?" Keegan has also incensed the German media by refusing to give them interviews under the pretext that he has language problems and also that he is under contract to an English Sunday paper!

Hamburg incidentally may have already found a ready-made replacement for Keegan: They signed Uli Hoeness (26), capped 35 times and member of the World Cup winning team in 1974. After falling out with Bayern Munich's manager Guyla Lorant, the talented Hoeness was to be sold for £175,000 to Hamburg.

Latest news: **This transfer deal may fall through, because Hoeness refused to undergo a stringent medical test on his suspect knee which the specialists in Hamburg wanted to open up!**

Saporta's word is law!

Raimundo Saporta speaking after being named Chairman of the 1982 World Cup council in Madrid. With him are Pio Cabanillas, Minister of Culture, and Gabriel Canadas, deputy secretary of Minister of Culture.

ARGENTINA will kick off the 1982 World Cup in Barcelona's 90,000 capacity Nou Camp stadium.

That is the word from Raimundo Saporta, the president of the Spanish World organising committee — and Saporta's word is law.

The 51-year-old Paris-born banker who was Real Madrid's grey eminence for 26 years until a few years ago, is unchallenged in his new job.

Saporta made sure by refusing to accept the mammoth task until he was appointed through a royal decree, so that in effect the only man with any power over him is King Juan Carlos!

And the 1982 World Cup's "Mr Fixit" was soon pressed for his opinions.

What is the basis for your planning?

"The secret is to start at the final and work backwards. And to do that I imagine that the World Cup Final is in June 1981, not 1982. That means I want to do everything with a year to spare. Spain should be ready in June 1981, leaving the remaining 12 months for FIFA arrangements and preparations for all our visitors."

Do you want 16 or 24 teams in the Finals?

"The Spanish federation want 16, but FIFA president Joao Havelange and a few of the European nations want 24. I must admit I wouldn't be averse to 24. That would certainly make it far easier to please all our Spanish cities who want to stage matches."

You have 16 cities applying — how many have a realistic chance of seeing World Cup football?

"That obviously depends on the number of teams, but if things stay as they are now, then about six or seven."

What is the biggest problem you face?

"The finances. Not of the World Cup itself, I'm sure that'll make a profit. The problem concerns financing the organisation. But with some imagination and hard work we should overcome all that. After all, if you remember that the Argentina-Holland game was watched world-wide by 700 million people, we surely can't make a loss on the football.

"It's the matter of hotels, places for the teams to stay, press arrangements that add up. Spain is well prepared already, though there is some difficulty to be resolved regarding television lines. But I have some ideas up my sleeve on how to raise the cash . . ."

Such as . . . ?

"For example, I'm sure we can do business with some of the major multinational corporations. I'm going to have talks and tell them: 'Gentlemen, we have the World Cup and you have the money' . . . and we'll see where that takes us."

Are rumours true of a £6 million deal with the London agency West Nally, to market the mascot and official insignia?

"In fact we've so far received two major offers, both from North America. You know the Argentines only got themselves sorted out about 18 months in advance and couldn't exploit matters to the full. But we've got more than three years. By next summer boys and girls on the beaches could be wearing T-shirts with the 'Mundial 82' badge and that's worth millions of dollars already . . . and still leaves all 1980, 1981 and 1982 itself."

What about receipts for the football?

"Well, a match such as Argentina-West Germany will fill any ground but Japan-Tunisia certainly won't. Television knows that and the people who deal in adverts round the grounds know it, so that too is an unknown quantity at this time."

How much will the World Cup cost Spain?

"What Spain can afford to pay, what it wants to pay, what it needs to pay . . ."

And where will the major games be, and how many journalists do you expect to cater for?

"At the moment we're working in terms of Argentina opening the finals in Barcelona's Nou Camp, with the Final itself in Real Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu. As for the Press, in Mexico there were 2,500 journalists. In West Germany 4,000 and in Argentina 6,000. We think we'll probably get 8,000. This concerns me a lot because journalists should have the best working conditions. After all, they present the World Cup to the rest of the world."

Saporta, who missed out on Argentina because of the death of Real Madrid president Santiago Bernabeu — he had to step up as acting president — has named Anselmo Lopez as his No 2, and promises a World Cup which will be "happy and dignified — if not on the grand style, because the economic situation in Spain does not permit that.

"After all, let's be realistic. This is the World Cup, and not the End of the World."

Action from the Spanish League match between Athletico Madrid and Real Sociedad at the Vicente Calderon Stadium — a possible World Cup venue. The match ended 2-2.

ZAMBIA WARM UP

THE big wheel of World Cup fortune is jerking back into action again in a few unlikely places.

Zambia, hopeful of qualifying for Spain '82 from the African group, have been doing some early sparring in England — against the likes of Workington and Wigan.

Their coach, Englishman Brian Tiler, was anxious to give them experience — not least of floodlights — and find out for himself what standard his players had reached.

The first three matches produced three defeats — 3-0 at Shrewsbury, 2-1 at Wigan and 3-2 at Workington. But Tiler was far from discouraged.

Before taking his 16-strong squad on to matches against Bradford City and Bristol Rovers he said: 'We came here for experience, for things to learn. That is exactly what the players are getting.

"Everything is so different from the football they are used to — the grounds, the opposition, the conditions. The weather has been fairly good, in fact, but when we left Zambia it was 110.

"The first match, against Shrewsbury, was the first they'd ever played under floodlights and it obviously affected them. Our keeper is normally very good coming off his line, but in one incident he stayed there and it cost us a goal.

"But we did better at Wigan and by the end of the tour I'm sure we'll be finding the benefit. The players have a lot of skill, they are very willing and are sure to improve with more competition."

Zambia's immediate aim is success in Africa's East and Central Challenge Trophy, but the World Cup is the ultimate target.

Tiler says: "The big one is the World Cup, and with the possibility of two African representatives next time, Zambia must have a good chance of getting there.

"They were just beaten out of a place in the 1974 finals by Zaire and then lost in a three-way contest with Tunisia and Egypt in 1978."

Tiler's road to Zambia has been long and varied. He played with Rotherham, Aston Villa and Carlisle and had 18 months at Wigan as player-manager before taking charge of Portland Timbers in America.

He applied for jobs at Lincoln and York but was unsuccessful, so at the beginning of the year he signed a two-year contract with Zambians as national team coach and director of coaching.

Whether he stays on after that period to chart the second part of Zambia's course to Spain is another matter.

He explains: "I'm happy over there, my wife has now settled in and so has my daughter. It's also an English-speaking country.

"To get the same sort of salary in England I would have to be in the First Division. On top of that I get a car and a house.

"But I am ambitious. I am only 35 yet have a lot of experience and the English First Division is my target."

Ban the hooligans

by Derick Allsop

BRITISH football fans flexed their muscles for the new season with a few of the usual warm-up bouts.

The all-too-familiar mob — many of them believed to be servicemen — turned Manchester United's 'friendly' against Cologne in West Germany into a macabre scene of violence and terrible injuries.

Celtic supporters ripped out iron railings at Turf Moor and held up the Anglo-Scottish Cup-tie against Burnley with a exhibition of spear-throwing.

England's marauding thugs followed up their barbaric display in Luxembourg with another attack of madness in Denmark.

In the Football League it was much the same. One spectator left the Manchester derby match at Old Trafford with a dart in his head. Millwall followers, called upon to avenge the death of one of their number, duly clashed with West Ham supporters.

Nothing changes. The British Disease is still rampant; remedies scarce and rarely effective.

The Fans — and indeed many people within the game — are dragging the name of British football into the gutter.

The World Cup, contested 7,000 miles from Britain, served to emphasise the point. Most matches were well attended and trouble-free. No jostling, foul-mouthed, drunken yobs. It's an age since we knew the likes on British grounds.

The few unsavoury incidents came at Scotland matches. Boorish gangs were no worse than 'normal', but the rest of the world has rather higher standards.

One tartan lout even attacked Iran's mascot, a cheerful, colourful little character past his 50th birthday who follows his country armed with horn and flag.

Worse still was the performance of the official Scotland party. The Johnston scandal, stories of late-night drinking and trouble-making hogged headlines all over the world and require no further comment.

But for me the most distressing experience was listening to the bitter reflections of a local in Alta Gracia, where the Scots had their headquarters.

"We were all looking forward so much to having them," she said. "We have always respected British people. We thought it was an honour to have them with us.

"We were only worried that we wouldn't be good enough for them and worked hard to prepare for their stay. How wrong we were. Now we know they aren't good enough for us."

How are the mighty fallen.

British clubs are by no means the only ones who appear before international soccer courts because of crowd misconduct, but no country is so infested by hooligans at every level and with such regularity.

The English FA took action by banning their supporters from the European Championship match against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. It was the very least they could do.

Similar bans have been imposed on Manchester United and Chelsea fans and UEFA have handed out bans to clubs, only to pull their punches under pressure. Football bodies can't afford to be weak-kneed any longer.

If hefty penalties — long bans and big fines — were given more readily clubs might make more than a few feeble noises about their trouble-makers. Too many clubs are afraid of cutting off the hand that feeds them — even if it is cancerous.

They are foolishly short-sighted. In the end they will starve anyway. People DO stay away for fear of violence. Clubs not only have responsibility but also more power than they imagine.

Police evict warring spectators during the West Ham — Millwall clash at Upton Park.

World Soccer Diary... World Soccer Diary...

Saporta heads World Cup Committee...Real Madrid start well

SPAIN are drawing heavily on the Real Madrid old boys' society in their preparations for the 1982 World Cup.

Agustin Dominguez is the new FEF secretary, Raimundo Saporta has been confirmed as head of the organising committee and one-time Uruguay and Spain stopper Jose Santamaria has become general manager supervising the national team.

One central defender not moving however is Rayo Vallecano's Tanco, for whom Rayo and Real had agreed fees. In the end the player turned down the move.

"It's every player's dream to sign for one of the big clubs," he said, "but I don't see much point in the upheaval when Madrid are only offering virtually the same money I'm getting now."

Madrid have nevertheless started the season well, beating Valencia 2-1 in their first game, and later defeating Barcelona 3-1. Valencia were without injured Mario Kempes and Rainer Bonhof didn't have the happiest of starts to his career in Spain, missing a penalty.

Though Arias followed up to score Madrid stayed ahead thanks to strikes from Pirri (also a penalty) and Bonhof's fellow West German, Stielike.

New German boss Jupp Derwall was at the match, considering whether to recall both men for the European championship.

With Kempes back Valencia beat CFB 2-1 the following week, with goals from the Argentine World Cup star and ex-Boca striker Dario Felman.

Before the break for the 2-1 European championship win in Yugoslavia, Madrid led the league with seven points, followed by Bilbao, Las Palmas and Espanol on six. With four games gone nine teams had won only once and Burgos — with four draws — hadn't even done that!

Predictably, the threatened players' strike was averted.

IS Giampiero Boniperti's eight-year reign as Juventus president coming to an end?

That was the question posed after Juventus' first round defeat by Glasgow Rangers in the Champions' Cup. Winning the Cup had become Boniperti's major aim, but over 20 years he has been continually thwarted first as a player now as president.

What's gone wrong? A lot of the blame must fall on the fact that the Italian league does not begin until the start of October, and though the domestic Cup qualifiers are held in September, they're not taken too seriously.

This is far from the first time Juventus have failed in the first round in Europe and though the excuse has been put forward that their players were tired after bearing the brunt of Italy's World Cup effort, the same went for other clubs in other countries.

That the Italians' problems is one of their own making is underlined by the fact that of six entrants for Europe, only two remained afer the first rounds — Inter and Milan, and Milan needed a penalty contest to defeat Lokomotiva Kosice!

Out went the other UEFA Cup contenders, Lanerossi, Torino and Napoli. That's too much of a coincidence for Boniperti to feel Juventus' new flop is his personal fault.

After eight years at the helm however he may fancy a change. One thing's for sure, he won't be breaking with the all-powerful Agnelli family. His possible destination could be to head the new Fiat sports and leisure complex.

FAR BE it for me to criticise a man for cashing in on whatever fame is going his way, but Osvaldo Ardiles is pushing it a bit.

I thought *World Soccer* readers might be interested to know Ardiles's opinions on the World Cup, English football, the problems facing immigrant footballers and so on.

"That'll cost you £150," said his manager — business, that is, not Spurs' Keith Burkinshaw. "Ardiles feels that if you want to take up his time then he should be reimbursed for it. After all, you get paid for your work, so why shouldn't he?"

Sounds persuasive at first, until you realise that the amount of free publicity footballers receive from blanket newspapers, magazine, television and radio coverage makes them the public figures they are, creates the very images which sponsors rush to endorse.

Football is a branch of the entertainment business. Managers and players might try a bit harder to meet the Press halfway instead of

Osvaldo Ardiles (left) in action for Tottenham Hotspur against Terry Yorath of Coventry City.

World Soccer Diary... World Soccer Diary...

Real Madrid beat Barcelona 3-1 in a Spanish League match... left to right: San Jose and Benito (Madrid) and Rexach (Barcelona).

begrudging the time which makes them famous and helps boost their case when it comes to renegotiating contracts with their clubs.

Ardiles is well paid for the work he does. If he wants to boost his income further he ought to try to improve his image rather than mask it behind a demand for money — £150 for about 45 minutes' talk sounds like inflation in anyone's language.

But you haven't heard the best yet.

When I said I wasn't interested, his manager said: "That £150 is a special rate for you, you know, because you're a magazine and not a newspaper."

How generous!

A PROPOS of the World Cup I had several abrasive conversations in Argentina with Francisco Marcos, the vice-president (public relations) of Tampa Bay Rowdies, over whether football needed to alter the Laws.

Marcos argued in particular the case for the 35-yard offside line whereas I felt that the Laws have been good enough so far this century and that football's strength lay in their comparative inviolability.

Not having visited the U.S. to see the offside line in operation, I wasn't arguing from a position of strength, so maybe I was being too conservative.

But I certainly feel that a mistake was made when the International Board meddled with regulations governing goalkeepers bouncing the ball. We now have a tatty situation where the goalkeeper must roll the ball before handling again.

The idea was to cut down time wasting . . . but shouldn't that have been up to the referees in the first place?

THE FACT that several managers had been at great pains to make it clear before and during the World Cup Finals that their contracts were about to run out is a point brought out in the first of the English-language World Cup publications.

Their aim, of course, was to sidestep any possible outcry for ignominious dismissal if things went badly awry.

Colin Malam of the **Sunday Telegraph** *is the author of* **World Cup Argentina** *(Collins, £2.50) which he had to write during the finals, remaining in the Press centre in Buenos Aires long after his colleagues had knocked off to string together his opinions and reports.*

Bearing in mind the immediacy of the situation in which Malam was writing the text is excellent. I wish I could say the same for the book's presentation.

There seems to be an opinion in the publishing world that any book about football must look like a kid's comic. But even **Beano** *would never sink to such typographical turmoil.*

Suffice to mention that the picture captions are scattered around in a most irritating manner and the photographs themselves have been butchered and sliced beyond recognition.

In no way is the editing work worthy of Malam's words.

IN PARIS in May I was told by a Polish official that Jacek Gmoch would be on his way after the World Cup, whatever the outcome. He suggested further that Poland's manager since 1976 would then find his way into the North American Soccer League.

Part One at least has come true. Gmoch and the Polish FA parted company 'by mutual consent' on October 1, though the news didn't emerge until several days later, bringing to eight the number of World Cup managers not staying on.

Gmoch, one-time international defender with Legia Warsaw where he first worked with Kazimierz Gorski, had been assistant manager at the 1974 finals and was confident Poland would do at least as well in finishing third in Argentina.

It was not to be. A tough disciplinarian, Gmoch failed to coax the best out of his players when it mattered and was unwilling to gamble heavily enough on the emerging talents of Zbigniew Boniek, who was Poland's outstanding player in spite of, rather than because of, his manager.

Other men to go include Lajos Baroti (Hungary) and Helmut Schoen (West Germany), retired; Marcos Calderon (Peru) and Antonio Roca (Mexico) sacked; Helmut Senekowitsch (Austria) and Ernst Happel (Holland), end of contracts; and Ally McLeod (Scotland), resigned.

Poor McLeod couldn't even get his resignation right. Instead of stepping down with comparative dignity before the new season, he waited until Ayr's offer came along after Scotland's 3-2 European championship defeat by Austria. The best-qualified man, Jock Stein, not wishing to take a backroom promotion at Celtic, had already by then started at Leeds.

The Scottish FA thus face paying several thousand pound compensation to the Elland Road club where Stein's reign lasted a mere 45 days — one day more than that of Brian Clough four years ago.

Stein's qualifications through his work with Celtic were matchless. But not many people remember that he took part-time charge of Scotland in the 1966 World Cup qualifiers when, decimated by English club calls, they were knocked out by Italy in Naples.

NAMES IN the news . . . CESAR MENOTTI is still working with Argentina's youth squad (his contract doesn't expire until December 31) . . . RUDI GUTENDORF is Australia's new manager . . .RUUD GEELS started brilliantly with Anderlecht, averaging two goals a game . . . EMERSON LEAO has been transfer-listed by Brazil's Palmeiras . . . sweeper KAREL IVKOV has quit Levsky-Spartak Sofia for Bulgaria's second division Etar Timovo . . . ANTON MALATINSKY is new coach for Slovan Bratislava . . . JAROSLAV VEJVODA has signed for two more years with Dukla . . . Lok Leipzig's HENNING FRENZEL has retired . . . Finland's new hero is ATIK ISMAIL, who was born in Turkey but has taken Finnish citizenship

Arsenal is – it must b

The LESLIE VERNON

EVERYBODY knows that the home of the famous Arsenal Football Club is in Highbury, Islington, within easy reach of numerous bus routes, underground stations and railway lines. But if someone, for instance, yours truly, wishes to have a heart-to-heart talk with their chief coach, Don Howe, he is asked — not unreasonably I admit — to go to the club's training grounds at London Colney.

Where? — you may well ask, especially if you rely on public transport, as I have to at the moment, due to the unavailability of my wife's car. (My own had an unscheduled collision with a tree.)

"Go to Radlett station and take a taxi," advised a colleague, who ought to know because he works for a local paper. "Radlett is hopeless, go to Boreham Wood," advised another colleague, who ought to know because he also works for a local paper which deals with the Gunners.

In desperation, I decided to follow the biblical message and go to the 'Source'. So, I telephoned the Highbury ground, and asked for their Press Secretary's guidance. "Travel to Arnos Grove on the Underground," said the always helpful Alan Bevan, "and then take an 84 bus which stops outside The Bell public house in London Colney."

My journey to Arnos Grove was comparatively uneventful, but when I dutifully queued up at the bus stop, I was told by a group of old-age pensioners that the 84 stopped running in 1976, and that my best bet was to go to Barnet and then ...

By that time, my patience was exhausted, and I began to search for a taxi. The nearest rank was at Southgate, where the driver proudly informed me that he once took Liam Bracy to the same place, so he knew exactly where it was. My odyssey ended a mere three hours after setting out from home in Willesden. (It would have been quicker to meet Don at his Wolverhampton house!), but the tranquillity of the place on a sunny autumn morning was a welcome consolation.

There are at least six pitches there — all in perfect condition, well-appointed dressing-rooms, a treatment room and a club-house. That's where I bumped into Malcolm Macdonald, disconsolately eating a plate of sausages and baked beans. He is still recovering from a cartilage operation, and is unlikely to kick a ball in anger until Christmas.

The first-team squad was working on set-pieces under the guidance of Howe, while at an adjoining pitch, Bob Wilson, goalkeeper, now BBC T.V. presenter, was laying-on balls to youngsters who had to take pot-shots at a goal, brilliantly guarded by a little guy no taller than a corner flag.

Since I was told that the morning session (Arsenal quite often train twice a day!) wouldn't finish until 1pm I also had a plateful of sausages in the company of a Mexican ex-international full-back, who is spending a few months in England studying our training methods. Later, as the players drifted off the pitch, Don asked me to wait for him in the treatment room, which was courteously vacated for us by physio Fred Street.

Don Howe was a stylish full-back playing for West Bromwich Albion, and was capped 23 times for England. Late in his career, he was transferred to Arsenal — then in the middle of their most pedestrian post-war period — to add a touch of class to a suspect defence. He broke a leg in '65, and when he recovered, was offered the job of player/manager for the reserves.

When the then coach, Dave Sexton, left to take over Chelsea in '68, Don was eager to step into the breach, and the partnership of Mee and Howe was born. After years in the wilderness, Arsenal first won the Fairs Cup, then came the "Double" in the '70-71 season. Howe, wanting to be his own boss, went back to WBA as manager. After a three-years' stint there, he acted as a consultant to the Turkish club, Galataseray, then joined Leeds as coach to manager Jimmy Armfield.

But now the wheel has turned full-circle, and Don is back at Highbury in a set-up which involves Terry Neill as manager, Wilf Dixon as assistant manager and Howe as first-team coach. How does such an arrangement work?

"I coach the first team squad. I work out our tactical planning. Terry must have the final say in selecting the team, buying and selling players, financial policy, etc. But we discuss every detail, not only concerning the first team. Here we also run a reserve side and a youth team. We have 25 full professionals and 11 apprentices on our books. Nowadays, it is impossible for just one man to run a club like Arsenal efficiently — it's a team job. But there is no conflict of interest or ambition. For instance, Terry takes part in all our training sessions — but only as a player. I mean, he is on the pitch to encourage the rest of the lads with his example and application. He would never

Alan Sunderland (right) of Arsenal challenges Ken McNaught of Aston Villa in a Football League match at Highbury.

an institution – e successful

interview with DON HOWE

instruct anyone or interfere with my work".

How would you evaluate the season so far, and what are your targets?

"Arsenal is an institution — it must be successful. Nevertheless, if we finish in the first four, and have a good run in one of the Cups, I shall be satisfied. We have many youngsters in the side — Brady, Rix, Walford, O'Leary, Price, and there are others on the fringe of the first team. They still need experience. That's why it is so important to be in Europe. All types of football are thrown at our players, they face different problems in every game".

Bob Paisley said the European field is poor this season — there is nothing to beat for Nottingham Forest. Do you agree with him?

"Certainly not. There are many very good sides in European football. We played P.S.V. Eindhoven pre-season — they have an excellent team. Ajax are bringing forward a lot of good youngsters, and there are good sides in W. Germany and Spain".

You first mentioned P.S.V. and Ajax, so you obviously admire Dutch football. Is that the reason why you were not interested when Ardiles was offered to you, but did make a substantial bid for Rudi Krol?

"Not entirely. Ardiles is a playmaker just like Brady — you don't need two of a kind in your midfield. The ideal blend is — one ballwinner, one who can pass, and one who can go after it. If everyone just wants to pass the ball, there is nobody left to get into shooting positions. Krol is the type of player we need. He has vast international experience, the younger players could learn from him. He would also be a "voice" on the pitch — now Pat Rice has to do it alone. Of course, it is always a gamble to lay out big money for a player, but we owe it to our public to provide the best. The freedom of contract regulations can be overcome by giving a long contract to such a player, or to make sure that you can get some of your money back when he leaves the club".

Any comment of present-day refereeing?

"The standards are very high in England, we have no complaints. As for the laws of the game, I agree with Malcolm Allison, when he says that passing back to the goalkeeper from outside the box should be penalised with an indirect free-kick. It is a cowardly way out, it is boring, and players would improve if they would be forced to play themselves out of tight situations'.

Do we have anything to learn from the World Cup '78?

"There is always something to learn, but I was slightly disappointed with the standard in Argentina. The games were not really entertaining, apart from two or three exceptions. The tournament wasn't ultra-defensive, but the players seemed to be too tense. They were too scared to express themselves. Playing the simple ball, not to take any chances shouldn't be the overriding factor in a World Cup. Perhaps that is the lesson we must learn — we must not 'build up" a game or even a competition to such an extent, that the public expect too much, and the players are too frightened to perform to their full potential. In any case, the right team won. Argentina, with a little help which the home sides are almost entitled to, deserved to win because they played the best, most positive football".

How about our own game?

"The British game is improving all the time, and our league is still the best spectator entertainment in the world. Whenever I go abroad, people talk with admiration about our domestic game, they do like to see long passes, crosses into the goalmouth, all-action, combative football. But this prominence of league football automatically reduced the effectiveness of our national team. Ron Greenwood is the best thing that has happened to English football for years, but he can't change the system. Revie tried to get the players free for 10 days before internations, but it just didn't work, because the clubs didn't like it. So this idea had to be dropped — now Ron Greenwood gets his squad on a Monday morning, two days before the match, and five players out of 16 might be slightly injured. He must make sure that they are all fit to play, let alone be able to blend them into a team! So, to use an old cliche — you can't have your cake and eat it! *In England, league football is more important than international football!* We don't like our players to go away too long to play for their country, we want them here, to work with them for next Saturday's league or Cup match. That's why we shall always be inconsistent on international level!"

We ended our conversation on this rather pessimistic note — Howe is a realist, he doesn't believe in kidding people. The players finished their frugal lunch (sausages, baked beans, milk) and were ready for another short, sharp session with the coach. Will Dixon told me in good faith to wait in the dining-room, from where a junior player would take me to a coach which was leaving for Highbury within ten minutes.

After half-an-hour, I wandered out to the forecourt, where the coach was still standing, deserted, peaceful. I gathered from the driver that plans had changed, and the coach now wouldn't be leaving until the end of the afternoon training, showers etc. I said my goodbyes to Fred Street, who was doing running repairs on Pat Rice and Willie Young, then phoned for a taxi. It just wasn't my day — travel-wise!

David Price (left) of Arsenal against Ernie How of Queens Park Rangers.

AUSTRIA

by Arthur Rotmil

Maximum points from two games

AUSTRIA'S footballers returned from the World Cup in Argentina in a blaze of glory. They didn't win anything, but topped a tough I. final group against such opponents as Brazil, Spain and Sweden, and then finished their programme in the second final round with a marvellous 3-2 victory over West Germany.

Now the Austrians started in the European Championship with two wins — against Norway 2-0 (a) and Scotland 3-2 (h) and are favourites to clinch this group.

But nothing the national team has done recently could compare to that memorable triumph over the West Germans in Cordoba. Make no mistake, there was a lot at stake for the Germans who as reigning world champions desperately tried to salvage some pride, but even more important they were determined to reach the play-off for third place which would have given the players an extra bonus of £3,750 each.

They led early on but were overcome by a splendidly combative Austrian side who thus scored their first victory over "Big Brother" since 1931! There was deep disappointment in West Germany at losing the chance to reach the last four and all the jokes about the Austrian "upstarts" were silenced.

Never before has an Austrian national team been received by so many fans and acclaimed in such rousing fashion as on arrival back from Argentina. The players rubbed their eyes in disbelief at the thousands who waited patiently at Vienna's Schwechat airport chanting "Austria forever".

Street sellers

It sounded like the old imperial anthem "God keep us". The homecoming turned into a fete, street sellers offered little national flags, some were selling specially printed post stamps with a World Cup symbol, others were flogging T-shirts with the scoreline — **all obviously attuned (commercially) to the mood of the people. Austria's triumph over the world champions immortalised on a shirt! Rarely has a football success received a more bizarre commemoration.**

One must understand that there were also political undertones present which have their roots in the historical past. The Austrians felt that they have stepped out of a shadow and overcame the complex of being the small fish in the same pond as the powerful neighbour.

The fears that most of the internationals would leave the impoverished Austrian clubs to seek their fortune abroad after the World Cup, happily did not materialise, although six leading players changed clubs. But only two stars have left the country: centre forward Hans Krankl (25) was sold by Rapid to Barcelona who paid £500,000 for the man who with 41 goals last season was the European Leagues top scorer and won the coveted "adidas" Golden Boots award.

And 'libero' Bruno Pezzey (23) departed from SSW Innsbruck for Eintracht Frankfurt who forked out £250,000 for this highly skilled player. On the other hand two internationals returned to the homeland. Midfielder Josef Hickersberger quit Fortuna Dusseldorf to join Innsbruck, while striker Willy Kreuz left Feyenoord Rotterdam and is now the star turn of early League leaders VOEST Linz.

Austria's team which beat Scotland 3-2. Left to right: Sara, Fuchsbichler, Pezzey, Schachner, Kreuz, Krankl, Prohaska, Weber, Jara, Obermayer, Strasser.

Gemmill of Scotland (left) exchanges shirts with Sara of Austria.

On the domestic front striker Walter Schachner who was with the Second Division club Alpine Donawitz when he scored that sensational World Cup goal against Spain, has joined the champions Austria/WAC Wien (Wien means Vienna in German). And midfielder Herbert Weber left Sturm Graz for Rapid Vienna.

But the most significant change in personnel concerned that of the national team manager Helmut Senekowitsch, the man who led Austria in the World Cup has resigned. He had had enough of the constant squabbles with FA preseident Karl Sekanina, who belittled and even abused him at every opportunity — before the World Cup.

It was a sort of an insurance against failure. Sekanina waited to pounce on Senekowitsch to be proved right, so that he could say "I told you so." But after Austria's successful World Cup the whole country wanted Senekowitsch to stay, but he stuck to his resolve and left.

The new man is a "protege" of Sekanina, the former international full back (41 caps) Karl Stotz. This 51-year-old was formerly manager of his old club FK Austria, but lately had become a director of a fashion house in Vienna, whose chief Bohm was at one time president of FK Austria.

Stotz is earning £2,500 a month as national team manager, so he gave up a more lucrative job to return to soccer. He has done well, opening with two wins and he is feared as a disciplinarian. Already defender Baumeisted and goalkeeper Baumgartner have been chucked out of the squad — one because he committed a bad foul in a League match and the other for arguing with his club coach!

Finally a highly amusing snippet from "The Times" (London edition), who in their report on the European Championship match Austria - Scotland wrote . . . "Scotland unleashed a series of fouls (?) but the *Australians* (!) resisted them effectively and pressed them heavily . . ."

It seems to me that "The Times" knowledge of geography and indeed of international football is sadly adrift . . .

SOCCER IS DYING... FAST!

says World Cup coach Menotti

by Eric Weil

Argentine first division matches are being played in almost empty stadiums.

"THE way soccer is being run here, it will not last much longer. It's practically finished. Those in charge, with their continual experiments, are merely prolonging its agony, while the medicine needed now is a drastic and quick change, because it's dying fast."

Thus spoke Argentine football national team coach Cesar Menotti about Argentine soccer just three months after Argentina won the World Cup. In fact, he believes that under the chaotic domestic conditions the winning of soccer's major trophy was somewhat of an accident.

What's wrong?

Nothing that has not been wrong for quite some time, but it was expected that after the good organisation and the winning of the World Cup in June something would be done to organise Argentine soccer domestically. Instead, however, things have got worse.

And it isn't that Argentina's World Cup stars have all been lured away as was expected by some. Of the final 22-man squad all but five are still here. Kempes had already been playing in Spain before the World Cup, Bertoni was sold to a Spanish club before also, Tarantini's contract with Boca Juniors expired at the beginning of the year and after failing to agree on a new one the club released him on the condition that he did not go to another Argentine club, so he had to leave. This leaves only Villa and Ardiles who were actually transferred after the World Cup.

Meanwhile, however, clubs like River Plate, Huracan and Boca Juniors were given permission to tour abroad while the league championship was in progress, leaving reserves behind to comply with fixtures and in spite of a lot of talk no feasible steps have been taken to reorganise. The fans, however, have already given their verdict. A few weeks ago, at a first division match in which one of the big clubs (Independiente) played, a new "gate record" was set — 27 standing tickets and 11 seats were sold.

Argentina continues to be a nation of soccer fanatics and the game is a sure subject to get people talking. Almost everybody is a follower of one club or another and knows all about its players even though a proportion have never been to see them play. That proportion is becoming bigger and bigger every day as gates continue to drop.

The highest average first division gate in a season, since professional soccer started here in 1931, was in 1954 — 15,056. Since then the decline has been steady and last year it was only 5,337. This season, with more "gates" like that at Independiente the other day quite on the cards, the average first division attendance may not be much higher than 4,000.

While clashes of big clubs like River Plate and Boca Juniors are generally played in front of capacity crowds of between 60 and 80,000 (depending on the size of the stadium) the low average figures need some explanation in a country where the highest ever World Cup attendances have just been achieved. Club members enter with their membership cards and do not pay at the gate, while the first division also includes too many small clubs with a small following. But while this has always been so, the present downward trend needs fast action.

Why have Argentina's soccer fanatics stopped going to games? A recent poll only brought up the reasons which should have been obvious to FA and club officials a long time ago.

•It is too expensive. The lowest priced tickets cost the equivalent of £1.60 and for the average lower class, from which the biggest soccer following comes, is too much in these hard times of record inflation and low wages here.

•Games are poor and not worth the money. Fans blame the coaches and their "avoid defeat at all costs" tactics.

•There are few stars and as soon as they appear, they are sold abroad.

•There are too many teams in the first division (21), some of them too weak to offer first division soccer, and as most of them are from Buenos Aires, there are too many games chasing too few customers on the same day in the capital.

•Clubs go on tour or play in the South American club championship during the first division season and field reserve teams in league games, further diminishing interest.

•Stadiums are uncomfortable, decaying and lack essentials such as proper sanitation.

•The frequent trouble among spectators which makes many fans, specially women, feel it is not safe to go to matches.

•Too much soccer on TV keeps fans at home and also saturates them.

•There are too many games, often twice a week as the first division, with about the same number of games as in England, is followed by the national championship which is half as long again and in which first division clubs are joined by leading non-league provincial clubs.

•The best clubs are not even in the first division. Several strong clubs, such as Cordoba's Talleres which had three men in the World Cup team, play in their own provincial leagues.

The solution is obvious. A smaller first division with the best clubs from all over the country providing better soccer with games dispersed in various population centres. As bigger gates would enable clubs to pay their players more, they would also not have to transfer them abroad to make ends meet. So it's a vicious circle.

While FA and club officials are talking about, there are still too many votes with vested interests — small clubs afraid of being left out in the cold — to block progress.

Professional soccer here is played by all-sports clubs with members — and run by amateur officials in an amateur way. All these clubs spend more on soccer than it brings in and, as a result, are continually in the red so that they can not even pay for the upkeep of their stadiums. But one thorny problem is that the state run football pools pay only 5% of their profits back to the FA to distribute among the clubs.

A book written by a well known English soccer star of the early post war period had a chapter on club directors . . . it was a blank page. The inference counts for Argentina also. With very few exceptions club officials, who are mostly businessmen, just can not seem to run professional soccer as a business — which results in habitual losses and problems with their employees, the players.

That is where the basic problem lies . . . ever since professional soccer started in Argentina

BRAZIL

by Claudio Kuck of 'O Globo'

Shock win for Guarani

THE Brazilian championship is over and after the surprising 1-0 aggregate victory of little Guarani from Campinas, Sao Paulo, over powerful Palmeiras in the final, the fans are turning to the regional championships, which remain the more important and attractive competitions.

But there was a sense of apathy after Brazil's World Cup failure, allied to the fact that the title had gone to Argentina, Brazilian soccer's greatest adversary.

Initial attendances were small and there was something new to Brazilian soccer: not just the usual one or two, but several stars are being transferred abroad. There is not the same economic crisis as in Argentina, whose clubs have sold several of their world champions but the finances of the Brazilian clubs are certainly not in good shape.

First Roberto Rivelino was attracted by Saudi Arabia's petrodollars. Then, Mario Zagalo, coach of Botafogo — and of the national team in Mexico 1970 and West Germany 1974 — signed a one-year contract with Al-Helal, where he will receive £750,000. And it's almost certain that even Claudio Coutinho is leaving for Saudi Arabia next January.

Dirceu, who scored several beautiful goals for Brazil in Argentina, has switched from Vasco da Gama to America of Mexico. And he signed for much less than the £425,000 offered by Birmingham. The problem was that Birmingham's interest in him existed only in newspaper headlines.

Vasco's chairman Agartino Gomes, as well as the player himself, confessed to me that they didn't know anything about the deal and that nobody had approached them.

Moreover, Birmingham could have signed Dirceu without any problem if they had made a direct offer of around £250,000. Manager Jim Smith asked me the telephone number of Vasco's chairman, after I informed him that in Rio de Janeiro nobody knew of Birmingham's interest. But it seems he never phoned . . .

There are problems with several other players who were in Argentina. Goalkeeper Leao asked Palmeiras for a move and he was offered in the market for £260,000. Nobody was interested and finally Vasco signed him for only £130,000.

Batista, the new star of the Brazilian midfield, returned to International Porto Allegre after the Wold Cup but couldn't find a place in the first team, and was used instead at right back. Batista complained and asked to be transferred. Corinthians of Sao Paulo wanted to sign him but at the time of writing the deal has not materialised and Batista has played only a few matches.

Nunes — the forward who played against England at Wembley — left Santa Cruz for Fluminense, but is not scoring any more.

Zico, who before the World Cup was nicknamed the 'White Pele' in Europe, has yet to recover from his Argentina disaster. While being left out of his club side at Flamengo rumours spread that he is going to play in the Middle East, in Europe or with New York Cosmos. As yet however Zico is still in Rio.

But Reinaldo, the young top scorer of Atletico Mineiro, had to leave for the United States, not to join a club but for another knee operation and he won't play again for a year. It's a pity because he is one of the most skilful Brazilian players but during the World Cup he couldn't contribute much because of his knee problems.

However, there has been some good news. Francisco Marinho, the blond left back who impressed football during the 1974 World Cup but wasn't called up by Coutinho, forgot his personal problems, the guitar, the samba, the beach, the big cars and is now playing excellent football again.

As left back he was always criticised for attacking too much and defending too little. Now he has discovered the ideal stage for his joyful style, in midfield. Marinho moved forward at Fluminense to replace Rivelino with the best possible results.

The problem is that Brazil have lost a left back — a position in which they have few stars — and gain another midfielder, where there are plenty of them.

In fact Falcao of Internacional, the best of all, after having a disagreement with Claudio Coutinho in Colombia during the World Cup qualifiers was not even called to go to Argentina . . .

Excursion

However, gradually, Brazilians are starting to forget the World Cup and the desire to watch football is slowly returning. Attendances in Maracana and Morumbi have increased during the last few matches of the Rio and Sao Paulo championships while in the south Internacional (Brazilian champions in 1975 and 1976) have promoted some young players and are building a good team again.

In Rio Flamengo — after several successful signings and one excursion through Europe where they beat Real Madrid to win the Palma de Mallroca trophy — are again the joy of their huge crowd of supporters.

Coutinho appears able to make the team play within the pattern he could not impose on the Brazilian World Cup side.

Flamengo have won six of their eight matches, drawing the other two, and lead the Carioca championship with 14 points. Botafogo have 13, Vasco 12, America 10, Fluminense and Sao Cristovao nine, Madureira, Portugesa and Bonsucesso six, Bangu and Olaria four and Campo Grande one.

Fluminense's campaign started so poorly that coach Paolo Emilio has been replaced by Admildo Chirol.

Claudio Aldao, the former Brazilian under-21 and Santos star, is finally doing well with Flamengo and is top scorer with nine goals (He had played in only seven matches).

Zico of Brazil

In Sao Paulo there are four groups. Santos are playing well again and lead Group A with 17 points, Ponte Preta have 16, Paulista 10, Noroeste eight and Portuguesa Santista four. Sao Paulo lead Group B with 17 points, Francana have 11, Portuguesa de Desportos nine, Juventus seven and XV de Piracicaba six.

Brazilian champions Guarani lead Group C with 19 points, Corinthians have 14, Commercial 12, Sao Bento 11 and Marilia eight.

Palmeiras lead Group D with only 14 points, followed by XV de Jau on 13, Botafogo de Ribeirao Preto on nine, America eight and Ferroviaria seven.

But recently Brazilians have suffered another international blow to their soccer pride with Atletico Mineiro (1977 runners-up) being knocked out of the Libertadores Cup after losing to Boca Juniors, the holders, in Belo Horizonte and in Buenos Aires, where they lost also to River Plate.

For a second time Argentina have got the better of Brazil!

The biggest tragedy of all, however, was the death of full back Valtencir — who for several years played for Botafogo in Rio in a super team alongside Paulo Cesar, Jairzinho, Roberto and other big stars. He was playing in Parana when, after an accidental collision with another player, he fell, breaking his neck and died on the way to hospital.

Something very different appeared in an English newspaper which published an article about violence in Brazilian soccer, claiming that Valtencir was assassinated in the stadium after the match by savage hordes of rival supporters . . .

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

IT was reassuring, just after the final whistle of Liverpool's second leg against Nottingham Forest at Anfield, to be confronted and complimented by Bill Shankly, on an article I'd written about the state of European football; lamenting the lack of outstanding teams. "You were right," he said. "Every sentence was right. Every word was right." Bob Paisley, Shankley's successor as manager, was himself to say, a little later, that English teams would win all three European tournaments; there was so little to beat in Europe. Strangely, none of us knew at the time of Rangers' astonishing victory over Juventus, at Ibrox, surely one of the finest achievements by a Scottish club in Europe for a very long time, and a great tribute to the wisdom of their new manager, their old captain, John Greig.

Many of us clearly underestimated Greig; myself among the sinners. His appointment in succession to Jock Wallace seemed to confirm one's impression of Rangers as an introverted, parochial club. Greig, after all, had only just finished playing. He had no experience whatever of management. He was a Glasgow Rangers through and through; and one of the hard, straightforward, prosaically functional school, to boot. How could he give Rangers the touches of modernity and sophistication which they so badly needed, were they to succeed again in Europe, as once they had in the 1972 Cup winners' Cup?

To draw Juventus, those wily veterans of European football, their team packed with World Cup stars, seemed in its way as harsh a piece of luck as Liverpool drawing Forest — the one team in the tournament on which you would put money to beat them, the team against whom they just could not score goals.

Forest, as one suspected, even feared, duly accounted for Liverpool, who evinced the old sterility against them, and when Rangers gave away a goal in Turin, failed to win a single match in the League, then had to confront Juventus at Ibrox, the die seemed well and truly cast. Even if Causio and Bettega are notoriously so much better at home than away (pace Argentina and their gifted performances there) it was hard to see Rangers penetrating a packed, catenaccio, defence. One envisaged an infinity of mindless high centres, easily nodded away by Morini or caught by Dino Zoff. Instead, Greig's Rangers team cleverly tempered and varied their performance, got the two goals they needed, and strode on into the next round. Bravo.

FOR many years, one has been waiting for the autobiography of Sir Stanley Rous, knowing him as a forceful, lively administrator, a vigorous conversationalist, a man of unfailingly strong opinions, likes and dislikes. His sustained feuds with certain F.A. Councillors, Chairmen and other functionaries, his disgraceful defeat by egregious Havelange for the Presidency of FIFA — all this suggested the possibility of a memorable book.

Now it has appeared, and it is dreadfully disappointing, a dull essay in presenting the public face. It is called FOOTBALL WORLDS, it is published by Faber, it is drearily bland and evasive where Rous himself could be so forthright and, occasionally, outrageous. If only he had come clean and told us what he *really* thought of the likes of Havelange, Denis Follows, Sir Harold Thompson; if he had recounted some of the tales of his relationship with Graham Doggart, when Chairman of the F.A. Rous has been, like him or not, unquestionably a major figure in the development of international football, a fervent internationalist himself, inventor in his day of the diagonal system of refereeing, stout bulwark in FIFA against political chicanery.

Most justifiably, he laments the fact that the Africans, for whom he selflessly did so much in FIFA, should gang up to vote against him in the Presidential Election. A rotten, wretched, corrupt lot they were, and as my colleague Keith Botsford wrote at the time of that sorry affair in Frankfurt, little brown envelopes were going into big, black hands. Many of these, as Rous writes, belonged not to football people at all, but to representatives thrown in at the last moment from local embassies.

Sir Stanley revices an old, forgotten controversy, one which clearly tankles in his mind, when he writes of the day that the England team hailed Hitler, before the match against Germany in Berlin in 1938. He writes:

When we arrived, we were told that the Germans would stand to attention for our National Anthem and were asked to return the compliment by giving the Hitler salute during the playing of theirs . . . I had an interview with the British Ambassador, Sir Neville Henderson, and asked what we should do.

That arch appeaser not surprisingly replied, "When I go in to see Herr Hitler I give him the Nazi salute because that is the normal courtesy expected. It carries no hint of approval of anything Hitler or his regime may do. And if I do it, why should you or your team object?"

Rous conveyed these dubious thoughts to the England team, "leaving the choice to them, but pointing out that on the decision depended whether the game was held in a friendly or hostile atmosphere. All agreed they had no objection, and no doubt saw it as a bit of fun rather than of any political significance."

Did they? The ghosted autobiography of Eddie Hapgood, left-back and captain of England, FOOTBALL AMBASSADOR, leaves the matter in some doubt. He points out, in the first place, something which Sir Stanley does not mention; that there had been trouble two years earlier at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, when the British team, instead of giving a Nazi salute, had merely turned "eyes right.". Hapgood goes on:

Mr Rous reminded Sir Neville of his previous experience and suggested, as an act of courtesy, but what was more important, in order to get the crowd in a good temper, the team should give the salute of Germany before the start. Sir Neville, vastly relieved at the readiness of the F.A. officials to help him in what must have been an extremely difficult situation, gladly agreed it was the wisest course.

Mr. Wreford Brown and Mr. Rous came back from the Embassy, called me in (I was captain) and explained what they thought the team should do. I replied, "We are of the British Empire and I do not see any reason why we should give the Nazi salute; they should understand that we always stand to attention for every National Anthem. We have never done it before — we have always stood to attention, but we will do everything to beat them fairly and squarely." I then went out to see the rest of the players to tell them what was in the offing. There was much muttering in the ranks.

The players were then addressed by Charles Wreford Brown, the F.A. Councillor, former Corinthians centre-half, and allegedly the inventor of the word soccer — a corruption of Association Football. The story goes that Wreford Brown was seated in his rooms in Oxford when a fellow undergraduate came in to ask if he were playing Rugger that day. "No," replied Wreford Brown, "I'm playing 'soccer'."

He told the players that there were undercurrents, that the matter had virtually been taken out of his hands, that "he and Mr. Rous felt as sick as we did, but under the circumstances, it was the correct thing to do."

So it was done; as it would be done again in Milan, to all four corners of the stadium, a year later. The happy sequel was that an enraged England team played Germany off the park to win 6-3, though Sir Stanley is wrong when he says that Len Goulden, who thunderingly volleyed the sixth goal, was then a Chelsea man. He didn't join them from West Ham till after the war.

FOCUS ON FKA by JONATHAN SHALLARD

Fussball Club Austria return

IT'S ALWAYS reassuring to see one the great names of pre-war European club football reappearing in competition and all the more welcome back in the Champions' Cup this season have been Fussball Klub Austria from Vienna.

The Viennese school of football was once one of them ost admired in the world — a short-passing game based on skill on the ball, invention and finesse.

Those qualities were also its downfall though, as in the 1934 World Cup when the robust Italians battered their way to a 1-0 semi-final win against the fading Austrian Wunderteam and on towards ultimate victory. But it was in those years that FKA (as we'll call them to avoid confusion) reached their peak, twice winning the Mitropa Cup and forming the basis of the fine national team put together by Hugo Meisl and Jimmy Hogan.

All the names and stories came flooding back when FKA were last season challenging Anderlecht in Paris in the Cup-winners' Cup Final.

It was in the last decade of the 19th century that football began to take a grip in Central Europe and Vienna was one enthusiastic centre, possibly because of the large British community.

Two clubs were formed. One was the club still known as Ist Vienna, the other was the Vienna Cricket and Football Club, forerunner of FKA. In 1894 the clubs staged the first official football match in Austria, and the Cricketers won 4-0 twice over. The sport quickly caught on. In fact, in 1897 entrance prices to see this original Viennese derby were doubled, not to make a financial killing but to restrict the attendance to manageable proportions.

Hugo Meisl, son of a Jewish banker, was the moving spirit behind both the club and the Austrian FA, which was set up in 1904. Meisl's father was driven to despair by his son's preference for football rather than the family business.

But eventually even he realised it was no good arguing and Hugo threw himself into his abiding passion with an enthusiasm which would make him one of the outstanding administrators in pre-war football.

On October 12, 1903, Austria played Hungary in what is claimed to be the first full international outside Britain. The Austrians won 5-0 and that success provided Meisl with the inspiration to bring over British touring sides in the close season.

Short-passing

The Scots made the biggest impression with their short-passing style, and this was the one which stayed with the Austrians, thanks to the influence of Jimmy Hogan. Born in Nelson, Lancashire, he made an undistinguished playing career with Rochdale, Burnley, Fulham, Swindon and Bolton but remains more famous even now in Austria because of his coaching, than in England, where few people took much notice of him.

In 1911 some members of the Cricketers broke away to launch the Wiener Amateur Sportverein and with crowds of 40,000 commonplace after the first world war and professionalism introduced in 1924, the club swapped names again on November 28, 1926.

This time they became the Fussball Klub Austria, the name which remains despite the amendments of recent years. In 1973, with Austrian football suffering a terrible crisis of cash and crowds, they merged with the Wiener Athletik Club and gained the saving sponsorship of the Anglo Elementar insurance organisation. That tie-up lasted until July 1, 1977, when Lothar Kloimstein, director general of the Austria Tabak Werke became president and the sponsorship switched to that of Memphis cigarettes. FKA are now, officially, the F.K. Austria-Wien Memphis.

Such developments were undreamed-of in the 1920s and 1930s. But already cash counted. Under Meisl's guidance FKA tempted the famous Konrad brothers from MTK Budapest and another of their Hungarians, Spezi Schaffer, was the first full-time professional in Austria.

Meisl was meanwhile busy elsewhere. In the late 1920s he helped found the Mitropa Cup. The Mitropa — the word is a contraction of the German *Mittel Europa*, meaning Central Europe — was the predecessor of the present European Cups, an international knock-out contest played on a two-leg basis.

FKA soon established themselves, through the Mitropa, as one of Europe's greats. In 1933 they beat the outstanding Sparta Prague 1-3, 3-0, Juventus 3-0, 1-1 and then in the final Ambrosiana-Internazionale 1-2, 3-1.

In the second leg in Vienna FKA benefited from a controversial penalty and the expulsion of two Italians by Czech referee Cejnari, yet the winner came only with what proved the last kick of the game from Matthias Sindelar.

In 1936 they won again, their team at this time containing some of the key men in the Wunderteam.

The Wunderteam had been born early in 1931, when Austria thrashed Scotland 5-0. Germany were thrashed home and away and Switzerland beaten 8-1 in Basle. They beat Italy 2-1, old rivals Hungary 8-2 and lost unluckily 3-4 to England at Highbury. But by the time of the 1934 World Cup, the team was past its best and, as we have seen, it was Italy who were in the ascendancy.

An FKA man sadly missed in the 1934 Finals was national captain and left half Walter Nausch, who was injured. Nausch played 70 times for Austria before leaving in 1938 to coach in Switzerland. Later he returned to take Austria to third place in the 1954 World Cup.

Man of Paper

Karl Sesta was a tough left back who had once been a wrestler. He joined FKA from WAC, playing 43 times for Austria and then on three occasions for Greater Germany after the 1938 *Anschluss*.

But the greatest of all was Sindelar, tall and slim and nicknamed the Man of Paper. Sindelar had joined FKA from Hertha in the early 1920s and took Kalman Konrad as his model and hero. Skilful, intelligent, with a fine shot even though he preferred the touch goals, Sindelar was Jewish and after being betrayed as such to the Nazis in 1939 by a team-mate (!) committed suicide in a gas-filled room over a bar.

Probably Sindelar's most outstanding match — apart from that Mitropa final with Ambrosiana — was the national team's 8-2 slaughter of Hungary in 1932. Sindelar scored three goals and made all the other five!

Those halcyon days of the 1930s have gone for good and Austrian football today possesses no new Meisl. But since the war there have been successes and FKA have had a hand in them all.

It was their dashing right winger Ernst Melchior, for instance, whose goal in 1950 ended Scotland's unbeaten home record against continental opposition and the last of the great attacking centre-halves, Ernst Ocwirk, was in the mid-1950s such a giant influence the English gave him the nickname 'Clockwork'.

Alas Melchior, who later managed the Luxembourg national team, died recently and Ocwirk, the one-time garage hand, is now severely paralysed.

Herbert Prohaska

It was in Ocwirk's last season that FKA returned to Europe. He had started his career with Stadlau, then moved to 1st Vienna before going to FKA and earning most of his 62 caps. Later he joined Sampdoria Genoa in Italy before returning to FKA for one last season, in 1961-62.

Karl Schlechta, centre half in the Wunderteam, was their coach and there was an outstanding goalkeeper in Gernot Fraydl and centre forward in Horst Nemec. Fraydl, fair-haired and a star of the national team's 3-2 Wembley win against England in October 1965 was for several years one of Europe's best. His career plummeted however when, at 27 in 1966, he tried his luck in the United States. He was soon back, but slipped from one club to another first in West Germany then in Austria and hasn't been heard of since.

Nemec was even more of a shooting star. A burly, moody centre forward, he won 27 caps for Austria but shot in and out of favour inbetween disputes with officialdom off the field and referees on it.

Under Schlechta FKA claimed a championship hat-trick in 1961, 1962 and 1963 and they've won four more titles since but without ever going further than the second round of the Champions' Cup.

In 1969 and 1970 Ocwirk was manager of their title-winning team, but when he left for West Germany and took star forward Thomas Parits with him, the club fell into disarray. Financial problems and the reorganisation of the Austrian league did little to help, so in the summer of 1975 the directors decided to gamble on a youth policy.

Yet no-one could have been more surprised than they were to see it pay off so quickly. The youngsters were champions at first attempt in 1976 under former Austrian international stopper Karl Stotz (now the national team boss). In 1977 FKA finished third but won the Cup and everything was set fair for last season's surprising run — thanks to one away-goal win and two on penalties — into the Cup-winners' final.

Hermann Stessl is the coach, a 37-year-old who took over last year after playing for GAK Graz whom he later trained after learning the ropes at Kapfenberg.

Anderlecht's class brought FKA a 4-0 drubbing in the Parc des Princes. But that their achievement in reaching the final was no fluke was underlined when six FKA men — goalkeeper Baumgartner, and forward Hans Pirkner — went to the World Cup where Austria did so well.

Sara was captain in Argentina and among the best full backs there. The only survivor of the 3-2 Wembley win of 1966 he's in trouble nowadays when tested by a winger of pace and skill, but going forward he is quick to see an opening and uses the ball intelligently.

The star is, however, Prohaska. Still only 23, he is quick and clever with a threatening manner of running fast across a defence and then releasing a pin-point reverse pass to send a striker in on goal. He's staying on for at least one more year after a transfer deal with Spain's Gijon fell through. Gijon claimed Prohaska was asking too much money.

Up front, though veteran Hans Pirmer was sold to GAK Graz after the World Cup, FKA have filled the gap by beating deadly rivals Rapid to the signature of Walter Schachner, the burly winger from second division Alpine Donawitz who scored that spectacular opening goal in Austria's World Cup starter against Spain.

You may recall that in the Velez Sarsfield stadium Schachner took a pass just inside the Spanish half out on the right and forged deep into the penalty box before rattling a fierce angled drive up past Miguel Angel.

Josef Sara — younger brother of Robert — Karl Daxbacher, the prodigal Parits and Felix Gasselich were four more FKA men who made the World Cup 40 and Gasselich is a name worth nothing.

He's similar in style to Proshaska, just four months younger, and more direct. His only shortcoming at the moment is lack of stamina. For example, he started brilliantly against Anderlecht in Paris, but faded as FKA brilliantly tried to keep a lost cause alive in the second half.

FKA are not going to set Europe on fire. They lost 1-0 at home to Liverpool in a pre-season friendly, struggled past Vllaznia Shkoder in the first round of the Champions' Cup, and made a poor start in their domestic competitions. In the league they lost four matches on the trot — including one bitter 3-1 defeat by Rapid — and went out of the cup in the first round to a regional league team.

But their return to Europe's No 1 club competition is significant. It's important for football's success that the great traditions are maintained, and FK Austria are a case in point.

FIVE DEFEATS

HUNGARY

by Leslie Vernon

To quote an often used Budapest euphemism, Hungarian football is once again "under a frog's backside". The origin of this picturesque phrase escapes me — it has certainly nothing to do with the defeat against France — but it perfectly describes the low state of morale which justifiably pervades the scene.

To lose at Wembley following a long break in competitive football was no disgrace, the display against Argentina was resolute, but the other games in the World Cup (Italy, France) began to show-up the serious deficiencies still inherent in Hungarian football. And now the final, ultimate humiliation — a 2-1 reverse in Helsinki in the opening match of the European Championship.

Hungary have never before even drawn against Finland, the two countries weren't on the same plateau in the football sense. A bunch of amateurs on the one hand, who play football between two ice-hockey seasons in order to keep fit — and a squad of players on the other, who represent their country's most popular sport.

How it is possible for Hungary, twice World Cup Finalists, to be beaten comprehensively by the Finns, could be a subject for a book. Here we have only space to discuss the match itself. Newly-appointed national team manager, Ferenc Kovacs, decided to reconstruct the squad for this game, and to rely on a 4-4-2 formation.

Goalkeepers: Gujdar, Brunyi. *Defenders:* Paroczai, Martos, J. Kovacs, Balint, Kereki, Lukacs. *Midfield:* Tatar, Pal, Pinter. *Forwards:* Szokolai, Kardos, Varadi, Gyimesi, Tieber. Strange isn't it? 4-4-2 with only three recognized midfielders? Ah, well, both Kovacs and Lukacs have played there or Gyimesi could be withdrawn. ...

The actual team selected for this very important game included only four World Cup players — Gujdar, Kereki, Balint and Pinter and four new caps — Gyimesi (22, Honved), Tatar (26, Diosgyor), Kardos (24, Pecs), Tieber (29, Videoton). Paraczai had one cap, Lukacs seven, and Balint, the senior international, 55. Szokolai of Ferencvaros, who took over from Kovacs after 58 minutes, was also a new international.

Sandor Pinter of Hungary

Reputation

A curious combination of inexperience and faded reputations indeed, but the bland explanation was that "These are the players on form!" Well, they certainly didn't give any evidence to that in the deserted stadium in front of less than 5,000 placid onlookers. The Finns took the famed Magyars apart. Gyimesi could have scored early-on, but after that missed opportunity, it was all Finland as first the Turkish-born Ismail, then Pykko scored. Tieber got a "consolation" goal for Hungary in the 74th minute, but. ...

After the game, F.A. President Istvan Kutas blamed the club coaches for the decline of Hungarian football, team manager Kovacs said that he was satisfied with the players' application, but only Balint, Gyimesi and Tieber played well. According to the critics it was the experienced players who let the side down, but the tactical planning was also responsible for the "tragedy".

While the two forwards, Kardos and Tieber did do a lot of running to create space for the other eight potential attackers, no-one had the wits, initiative or energy to make a telling run from the back with or without the ball. It is paradoxical that Hungary also opened their previous European campaign in '74 disastrously — a 2-1 defeat at Cardiff.

In the meantime, there was marked improvement, which culminated in the World Cup qualification. But now they seem to be back to square one, although one wonders what difference the presence of Nyilasi and Torocsik might have made.

Scotland escape

SCOTLAND, not unused to disasters in recent months, were on the verge of another when Norway led 2-1 at Hampden Park with just 10 minutes of their European Championship encounter left.

Norway took a three minute lead by Einer Aas and desite an equaliser by Kenny Dalglish the Norwehians went aheadd again, with goal by Okland.

Scotland, fielding an all-Anglo side in this first match under new manager, Jock Stein, were in trouble but Dalglish first netted his second and then skipper Archie Gemmill scored from the penalty spot to pull Scotland out of the fire.

New Scotland goalkeeper Jim Stewart had an unhappy debut, replacing Alan Rough but in the end Scotland got the result that will keep alive their hopes of qualifying from Group Two, which is le by Austria.

Ian Edwards of Chester had a dream debut for Wales, scoring four goals in their 7-0 slaughter of little Malta.

Wales won in a canter, with Malta providing little or no opposition. Peter O'Sullivan, Micky Thomas and Bryan Flynn were the other Welsh scorers.

Northern Ireland did England a favour by beating Bulgaria 2-1 in Belfast. Trevor Anderson and Derek Spence scored for Ireland; Henning Jensen of Real Madrid was the Danish scorer. But it was a bad day for Denmark, who have only two points from four matches in Group One.

AEK Ahead

WITH Ferenc Puskas the former Panathinaikos boss in charge of them, AEK Athens have been the early leaders in Greece establishing a point lead after five games.

Former Yugoslavian international centre-forward Dusan Bajevic has been their leading marksman with six goals followed by Thomas Mavros with three and veteran ex-Panathinaikos midfield player Mimis Domazos with two.

Coach sent off!

RIJEKA coach Spasojevic was shown the red card by the referee in the match with Vojvodina recently after his team were beaten 2-0.

The result of him complaining bitterly to the official was such that he was banned from the touchline for a month. But he has been keeping in touch with the bench with the aid of a walkie-talkie.

Mladen Ramljak, 33, the international defender who has been playing abroad in Holland in recent years was killed in a car crash recently.

He played over 500 times for Dynamo Zagreb previously and was capped 12 times by Yugoslavia before spells with AZ 67 and Feyenoord.

Union Slump

AFTER their early rush of blood and free-scoring triumphs Union have been pulled back at the top of the League and been overtaken by champions Progres Niedercorn.

A three clear goals win for Progres away with Union the victims enabled the current title holders to go back to the top of the table.

In contrast the slump of the former Luxembourg Jeunesse Esch has continued. They have a young and largely inexperienced side at their disposal and their plight was simply illustrated in a friendly visit from the current West German Bundesliga leaders Kaiserslautern who took them apart in an 11-0 win.

With Louis Pilot, 38, in charge of the national team after the death of Gilbert Legrand, the 3-1 defeat by France in the European Championship was one of the better international results for some time.

ADAMSOM FOR LEEDS

JIMMY ADAMSON has been appointed manager of Leeds United. He has accepted a three year contract worth over £70,000.

Adamson, 49, moves to Leeds from Sunderland where he was manager for just under two years. He was previously manager of Burnley and was a prime contender for the job of England team manager both before and after Sir Alf Ramsey.

Adamson now finds himself attempting to pick up a Leeds team who have three managers since the departure of Don Revie. The short stays of Brian Clough and Jocj Stein, and the longer reign of Jimmy Armfield, have left their scars at Elland Road.

Slavisa Zungul of FC Hajduck Split and Yugoslavia.

CSKA improve

THE traditional giants CSKA Sofia and Levski Spartak have both had their problems this season, though the Army club have improved in recent weeks to head the race for the championship.

Lebski, hard hit by injuries, have also lost their sweeper and captain Kiril Ivkov, 33, who has joined Second Division club Etar Tiranovo and are doing well enough to go back to the First Division if they keep up current form.

First hat-trick of the season went to Ivan Petrov one of the two brothers in the Marek attack. He produced a timely treble to give Marek a first win of the season over Trakia by 3-2.

Pavel Panov capped 37 times has been captaining Levski and the national side this season.

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ARABS STILL LOOK FOR HELP

by Keir Radnedge

Country	Pop(m)	Clubs	Div I plyrs	Total	Prof. Place	National Stadium Capacity
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
England (comparison)	45.9	37,715	22	1.5m	5,000	Wembley 100,000 (42,000 seats)
Iran	33.2	422	(70 reg)	43,300	—	Aria Mehre (80,000 seat) 100,000
Iraq	11.1	155	14	1,700	—	Baghdad 50,000 (all seat)
Saudi Arabia	8.9	96	10	7,600	—	Riyadh 25,000 (all seat)
Yemen PDR	1.5	24	14	1,700	—	Aden 4,500 (3,000 seat)
Kuwait	0.9	14	8	1,838	—	Kuwait 25,000 (all seat)
U.A.E.	0.6	30	12	1,162	—	Abu Dhabi 60,000 (all seat)
Bahrain	0.2	30	6	2,110	—	Isa 16,500 (15,000 seat)
Qatar	0.2	8	7	1,200	—	Doha 40,000 (all seat)

IRAN'S appearance in the World Cup Finals was the first sign of soccer progress in Arab nations as far as the outside world was concerned.

Yet the fact that no fewer than 11 (!) of Tunisia's squad are now contracted to Saudi Arabian clubs emphasises the fact that the Arab football movement is still heavily dependent on outside help.

And as further progress is made the British will be able to draw a great deal of pride in whatever is achieved.

For though men such as Ferenc Puskas (Hungary), Hector Rial (Argentina) and Mario Zagalo (Brazil) have all worked in the Middle East in recent years, it is with the work of Don Revie, Jimmy Hill, Pat Saward, Bill McGarry, Ronnie Allen and Frank O'Farrell that football in these oil-rich nations is taking off.

They've earned a great deal of money. When Allen succeeded Newcastle-bound McGarry as team manager of Saudi Arabia, his contract was worth a tax-free £100,000 for two years.

But for all of them, it's been money earned the hard way. For more is expected than just taking control of the national squad every now and again. For these are the soccer missionaries, their job to help bring administrative organisation to an area rich in many things, but not in the world's greatest game.

Inland, where temperatures can rise to beyond 130 degrees, where some states maintain a ban on alcohol and others where the opportunities for leisure activities are few and far between, it's not just money for old rope. There's no relaxing haven here away from the pressures of British soccer.

Of all the soccer operations in the Middle East, the one in Saudi Arabia is the easiest to define, because the participation of Jimmy Hill has made it frequent news on the world's sports pages.

Hill, once a £7 a week inside forward with Brentford, earned his reputation first as a player with Fulham and then, as chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, led the successful fight for the abolition of the maximum wage in English football.

Later he earned still greater fame as a football programme presented with both commercial and BBC television, became managing director of First Division Coventry — where he had once been manager — and founder of the North American club, Detroit Express.

Ultimate goal

Then came the Saudis. Hill had been recommended by a British architect who had been working in Riyadh, the capital, and after one 90-minute audience with Prince Faisal in June 1976 he accepted a five-year contract to develop soccer there with, as ultimate goal, participation in the World Cup Finals.

To finance the venture the Saudis provided Hill with a grant of £25 million.

It sounds as if he had found the proverbial crock of gold, but, as he has been at pains to explain, a country with only one grass pitch needed to invest a lot of money in facilities alone before it could start thinking about developing player awareness of the arts, skills and tactics of the game.

Hill had to start from scratch. Saudi Arabia, with its scattered 8.5 million population (England, for comparison, has 50 million) is now seeing work on six football complexes. All have synthetic turf, while the 10 first division clubs are benefitting from new stadia and there is an administrative HQ and community centre being provided for the English personnel Hill is importing to make it all work.

His original choice for national manager was Bill McGarry. Once a determined wing half with Huddersfield, McGarry later managed Bournemouth and Ipswich before going on to Wolves who dismissed him after they were relegated from the First Division in 1975.

McGarry soon appreciated that he was in a totally differe environment; a country where the young players were keen to play fo the game's sake, not for material rewards.

He hadn't been in a hurry to look for work after the break wi Wolves. They had provided him with a £30,000 handshake, and h rejected offers from Spain's Bilbao, Holland's Sparta Rotterdam as we as Mansfield before Hill persuaded him, over a game of golf, to go out t Riyadh.

McGarry immediately found a new approach to life. It proceeds at slower pace, time-keeping is of less moment than in 'civilised' Weste Europe, and there wasn't much to occupy his time, but football. So h had no option but to set to work as soon as he could on the nation squad, dropping some of the too-complacent stars and in August 197 he brought his team to England for some matches against part-tim clubs with encouraging results.

There was also a coaching scheme for schoolboys to launch, and th chance to instil in them the dreams of the Olympics and then, one day the World Cup. On one of his visits to England McGarry said he didn think development would take as long as some people feared. Th players had plenty of skill, it was just a matter of adding fitness an application and tactical awareness.

McGarry returned home in November 1977 and the Saudis had t find a replacement. Ironically the man they were seeking was flying ou to their part of the world.

Early in December last year, West Bromwich, under Ronnie Aller went to Kuwait for a friendly. Allen, a 47-year-old who had once playe mor than 500 times for the club as wil as scoring twice in their 1954 F Cup Final win over Preston, was an ideal target.

Though the Saudis had already approached Alan Dicks (Bristol City) Bobby Robson (Ipswich), Mike Smith (Wales), Ron Saunders (Asto Villa) and Gordon Jago (Millwall), Allen was th best-qualified becaus of his experience in working abroad and working through interpreters.

After two years in charge of Wolves from 1966 to 1968 he travelle with success to Bilbao in Spain and Sporting Lisbon in Portugal befor returning home for a brief spell in charge of Third Division Walsall.

He then worked for Albion as a part-time scout before being invited t succeed Johnny Giles as manager in the summer of 1977. Despite a successful start to the season Albion were tardy in offering Allen a contract and that factor weighed in his thinking when the Saudis too advantage of that visit to Kuwait to sound him out.

Allen thought it over and talked to McGarry, who advised him to go So he flew back to Riyadh for another interview with Prince Faisal, and was so impressed with the ambitious approach and the terms I decided to accept then and there.

To support his work, Allen has five regional coaches introduced by Hill and though Iran put them out in the last World Cup there is no reason why they shouldn't provide sterner opposition next time.

The only problem for the Saudis is simply finding enough good players, for whereas they have a population of 8.5 million, Iran, by comparison, has four times the number of people and their footbal progress has also been well-organised and over a longer period of time.

Iran players training prior to the World Cup finals.

That much was obvious from their World Cup showing. But of all the Middle East nations, Iran's soccer development has been one of the most carefully thought-out.

Even though a domestic league has been in operation only half a dozen years they first took the Asian games title in 1968, winning it again in 1972 and 1974. That third triumph made a national hero out of Irishman Frank O'Farrell, who worked sensibly and steadily for a two-year spell to lay the foundations for Iran's World Cup success.

They had fallen only narrowly short of going to West Germany in 1974, losing in the Asia/Oceania play-off to Australia, and it was after this defeat that O'Farrell, previously dismissed in controversial circumstances by Manchester United, was signed.

Finishing touches

The Shah of Iran, with hopes of one day perhaps staging even the Olympic in Tehran, takes a great interest in his nation's football, that much is clear from the scrutiny provided by his son, Crown Prince Reza. Eastern European coaches have worked in the country, but it was O'Farrell who provided all the necessary finishing touches, so that his assistant and successor, security officer Heshmat Mohadjerani, could lead the squad on to Argentina.

"The administration and structure of football out there is very good," O'Farrell told me after returning to England at the end of his stint. "The present FA president has been in office seven or eight years and that's ideal because in the old days I gather they were always changing jobs and there was lack of continuity of ideas."

O'Farrell, appointed as third choice — Jimmy Hagan and Brian Clough said No — was particularly pleased with the youth programme he set up. Under him Iran shared first place in the Asian youth championships with Kuwait, and he also took them to the annual youth tournament in Cannes, where the under-18s, abroad for the first time, drew with Holland and an excellent Mexican team.

"The result won't always be that good," said O'Farrell, "but I put in a report after we came back saying that despite the setbacks they should always send a team. It's such valueable experience for later on."

Why did he go — apart from the offer of £40,000 tax-free for two years? "It was simply a challenge of helping an emerging soccer nation."

While O'Farrell was being signed up the Iranians were already well forward with spending £30 million on facilities for the 1974 Asian Games, developments from which their own sports organisations could benefit later.

When he got out there, how did O'Farrell cope with the life style? After all, it represented a big contrast to the way of living the son of a Cork engine driver had been used to during his management spells at Torquay, Leicester United and Cardiff.

"Well, the main thing is it's no use thinking about the things you get in England. That's no good for you. It's no use thinking it's like home, either, because it isn't. But my time out there didn't seem like two years. It went very quickly. But then, the job went well. Nowhere's very beautiful if you keep being beaten 4-0 . . ."

As for the standard, O'Farrell found the game slower because of the climate and only time, effort and training can improve fitness and condition to a sensible standard compared to Europeans. But it was clear from the World Cup that Iran are not far off.

Similar impressions came first, too, to England's most famous — or infamous — export, Don Revie.

The former international inside forward walked out on the England manager's job after three unsatisfactory years in the summer of 1977 to accept a £340,000 four-year contract in the little-known United Arab Emirates. Revie's arrival certainly put them on the map, but he wasn't the first to go.

Before him was Pat Saward, former Aston Villa and Republic of Ireland left half, who took what was originally a £1,500 ten-week contract with top club Al Nasr in Dubai, in January 1975 and stayed on.

Saward went first in desperation after 15 months on the dole fighting Brighton over a claim for unfair dismissal. He and his wife adjusted well, despite the heat, flies, sandstormes and basic grocery bills to the equivalent of £200.

His presence was useful too when 51-year-old Revie arrived with Les Cocker, his assistant during most of his reign at Leeds from 1961 to 1974, and then with England.

Revie had been offered the job by Sheikh Sultan, son of the ruler of the Emirates, and head of the army as well as of the football association. He was quickly struck by the players' natural ability and ball skills developed on the oil-rolled sand pitches.

The standard fell somewhere around Fourth Division level and Revie decided that the only way to come to grips with his job was to start at grass roots, organising coaching courses for the schools as well as trying to provide his national team with the necessary disciplines in fitness and tactics.

It could take 20 years before the fruits of Revie's work are visible and the Emirates, with their tiny five million population, have fewer potential players on which to draw even than Saudi Arabia. Construction work is going ahead at a far faster rate than Revie's own! A 75,000-capacity stadium is being built in Dubai and a marvellous multi-sport complex is taking shape around a new Al Nasr ground.

There's money available for each of the 12 first division clubs in government sponsorships and this goes a long way towards tempting foreign professionals. At the moment a club can sign three and play any two at a time.

Revie is hoping the limit may be increased because it's largely with example that the local players can improve. Already it's clear that youngsters who have had the opportunity of watching European stars of television have a far higher appreciation of the game than the established players.

The Saudis have a similar idea, hence the staggering bid to bring in Roberto Rivelino and several other European internationals. They won't be the last to go.

The UAE did enter the 1978 World Cup but, drawn in a group with Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait, withdrew before a ball had been kicked. It'll be interesting to see what happens next time — not just for them, but for all the Arab nations.

SOUTH AFRICA

America taps new source

by Winsor Dobbin

PROGRESSIVE North American Soccer League teams are turning to a new source of untapped soccer talent — South Africa.

Top NASL teams are creaming off the top talent in South Africa in a way that could eventually threaten the strength of the sport in that country.

With a truly multiracial Super League planned for next season, and with all sporting restrictions having been swept away, the South African soccer scene could also be set for a boom.

But many of South Africa's top players are only able to play in their own country for a few months of each year.

Clubs like Tampa Bay Rowdies and Colorado Caribous have realised just how much talent there is among both black and white South Africans. Thus a dozen or so South Africans are already installed with NASL clubs, and the power of the chequebook is certain to make sure others follow.

In October, Nesuhi Ertegun, chairman of New York Cosmos and president of Warner Brothers, paid a visit to South Africa to look at some of the talent available.

He watched a match between Arcadia of Pretoria and Orlando Pirates — teams that both already have players with NASL clubs.

Jomo Sono — himself a former Cosmos player — and Phil "Jones" Setshedi both play for the Denver-based Caribous, while Arcadia's Mike Connell and Steve Wegerle both play for Tampa Bay. Wegerle's brother, Geoff, turns out for Oakland.

Other South Africans playing in the NASL include Derek Smethurst, also of Tampa Bay, Patrick "Ace" Ntsoelengoe of Minnesota Kicks, and Ken Mokgojoa and Andries Maseko of Washington Diplomats.

But the most famous South African of all is Eddie Firmani, the coach has won three successive NASL championships, first with Tampa and then two in succession with Cosmos.

The South African connection started back in the 60s when Kaizer Motaung had great success with the now defunct Atlanta Chiefs, winning a championship medal in 1968.

Others like Smethurst and Ntsoelengoe — both of whom have played in the NASL for a number of years — followed and the trickle turned into a flood.

Now a number of American clubs are looking to South Africa in the hope of finding another gem like Mokgojoa, a loping black forward who sprung to prominence with a rush of goals for Benoni United.

The rise of soccer in the States has also hit the game in South African in another way.

Fading British veterans used to see South Africa as a comfortable country in which to spend a couple of years at the end of their careers.

Previously, it was quite normal for former internationals like Johnny Haynes, Ron McKinnon and Ron Davies to sign two-year contracts with South African teams.

Now, however, the lure of the dollar has p an end to clubs signing top British players long term contracts.

Players like Kevin Keegan, Mike Chana and Mickey Walsh still play occasio exhibition games — all three guested for Ca Town City this season — but long te contracts are a thing of the past.

Even promising young foreigners with a f years still ahead of them have quit Sou Africa for the U.S.

Former Crystal Palace defender An McBride is a prime example. McBride l league champions Highlands Park to jo John Sewell's California Surf in Anaheim.

Another Highlands Park player, Trev Dawkins (previously with Crystal Palace a West Ham) spent last season with NASL cl Sacramento.

And with men like Ertegun, president of t Cosmos and president of Warner Brothe keeping their eyes on South Africa, there little chance that teams will be able to hold to really talented youngsters.

But even allowing for such obstacles, no that apartheid has been swept out of socce enthusiasm for the game runs high.

45,000 crowd for a recent league matc between Lusitano and Orlando Pirates — wi a further 15,000 locked out — bears testimo to that.

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WANTED soccer books, magazines/newspapers, badges, Manchester United and international programmes, team group, player and action photos. Niels Kreisholt, Skolegade 7, 4200-Slagelse, Denmark.

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NORTH AMERICA

by Colin Jose

EACH year at the end of the regular season the North American Soccer League goes through the time honoured North American ritual of selecting its "All Star" teams. In addition awards are made to the league's "Most Valuable Player", to the "Coach of the Year" and to the best new young player termed in North American parlance "The Rookie of the Year".

This year in addition to all this the NASL has announced its North American All Star team, where selection is restricted to players who are citizens of the United States and Canada.

In most countries of course, and particularly with regard to soccer, the "All Star" team is the international squad, but in North America where sports such as baseball, basketball and American (grid) football are played in splendid isolation at the professional level then the all stars were created to recognise the top athletes in those particular sports.

Ever since the NASL was formed in 1968 it has followed this practice simply because the vast majority of its players were not American or Canadian citizens and therefore not eligible for the U.S. or Canadian national teams.

The NASL selects three all star teams first, second and honourable mention and these are selected by the players themselves with the poll being conduced by the "Sporting News" a weekly sports paper which oddly enough ignores soccer for most of the year. This years all star teams were as follows.

First Team: Kevin Keelan (New England): Ray Evans (California Surf), Carlos Alberto (New York Cosmos), Mike England (Seattle Sounders), Chris Turner (New England Tea Men): Gerry Daly (New England Tea Men), Franz Beckenbauer (New York Cosmos), Rodney Marsh (Tampa Bay Rowdies): Mike Flanagan (New England Tea Men), Trevor Francis (Detroit Express), Giorgio Chinaglia (New York Cosmos).

Second Team: Alan Mayer (San Diego Sockers): Arsene Auguste (Tampa Bay), Alan Merrick (Minnesota Kicks), John Craven (Vancouver Whitecaps), Bruce Wilson (Chicago Sting): Vladislav Bogicevic (New York Cosmos), Alan Ball (Philadelphia Fury), Ray Hudson (Fort Lauderdale Strikers): Steve Hunt (New York Cosmos), Steve Wegerle (Tampa Bay), Kevin Hector (Vancouver Whitecaps).

Honourable Mention: Bill Irwin (Washington Diplomats): Maurice Whittle (Fort Lauderdale Strikers), Werner Roth (New York Cosmos), Jim Steele (Washington Diplomats), Dave D'Errico (New England Tea Men): Patrick Ntsoelengoe (Minnesota Kicks), George Best (Fort Lauderdale Strikers), Jozef Horvath (Rochester Lancers): Dennis Tueart (New York Cosmos), Karl-Heinz Granitza (Chicago Sting) and Clyde Best (Portland Timbers) and Jorgen Kristensen (Chicago Sting) were tied for the final spot.

In the new departure of selecting a North American All Star team the voting was entrusted to the Professional Soccer Reporters Association and there is a suggestion that this group will make all the selections in future. The North American teams were:

First Team: Alan Mayer (San Diego): Jim McAllister (Seattle), Werner Roth (New York), Steve Pecher (Dallas), Dave D'Errico (New England): Bob Lenarduzzi (Vancouver), Al Trost (California Surf), Wes McLeod (Tampa Bay): Gary Etherington (New York), Kyle Rote (Dallas) and Mike Flater (Portland).

Second Team: Tony Chursky (Seattle): Paul Hunter (Detroit), Jim Pollihan (Rochester), Santiago Formoso (New York), Bruce Wilson (Chicago): Julie Veee (San Diego), Dennis Wit (New England), Angus Moffat (Detroit): Bill Sautter (Tulsa), Pat Fidelia (Philadelphia), George Nancholf (Fort Lauderdale).

NASL ATTENDANCES 1978

	Home Low	Home Total	Average	1978 Average	1977
High					
New York Cosmos	71,219	32,476	717,842	47,856	(34,142)
Minnesota Kicks	46,370	22,856	483,903	30,928	(32,771)
Seattle Sounders	36,810	16,722	338,677	22,578	(24,226)
Tampa Bay Rowdies	41,880	9,446	271,846	18,123	(19,492)
Vancouver Whitecaps	30,752	9,266	236,046	15,736	(11,887)
San Jose Earthquakes	17,130	13,109	214,217	14,281	(17,739)
Detroit Express	28,243	6,729	182,906	12,193	
Oakland Stompers	32,104	6,187	178,941	11,929	
New England Tea Men	30,128	1,837	177,882	11,858	
Portland Timbers	33,536	6,495	177,049	11,803	(13,368)
Tulsa Roughnecks	16,898	5,872	169,057	11,270	
California Surf	20,520	6,406	157,569	11,171	
Washington Diplomats	17,095	6,542	161,741	10,782	(13,058)
Fort Lauderdale Strikers	16,363	7,547	157,188	10,479	(8,148)
Memphis Rogues	17,251	5,028	142,775	9,518	
Los Angeles Aztecs	36,204	3,224	138,526	9,235	(8,843)
Dallas Tornado	16,282	5,031	134,714	8,980	(16,511)
Philadelphia Fury	19,279	3,217	124,199	8,279	
Colorado Caribous	16,857	4,136	111,266	7,417	
Rochester Lancers	12,504	3,053	101,402	6,760	(8,065)
Toronto Metros-Croatia	16,233	3,573	93,501	6,233	(7,336)
Houston Hurricane	15,268	3,853	87,085	5,806	
San Diego Sockers	10,227	3,112	79,848	5,323	
Chicago Sting	9,345	1,538	62,819	4,187	(5,199)

Based on 15 home games in the regular season

Lenarduzzi is top of the poll

Rookie

Voting for the "Most Valuable Player" and the "Rookie of the Year" was like the all star teams left to the players and they named Mike Flanagan of the New England Tea Men, who was on loan to the club from Charlton Athletic as the top player. Gary Etherington of the New York Cosmos who is also currently a member of the U.S. national team was named as the best young player even though he saw only limited action with the star studded Cosmos.

It was left to the coaches and general managers of the 24 clubs to name the "Coach of the Year" and they picked former England international Tony Waiters of the Vancouver Whitecaps as the tops in his field.

Aother new departure was the selection of a "North American Player of the Year". This like the team selections for North America was left to the writers who chose Canadian international Bobby Lenarduzzi by one vote over Werner Roth of the New York Cosmos. Lenarduzzi, who was born in Vancouver, but became an apprentice with the English club Reading at 15 has played for the Whitecaps ever since they were formed in 1974.

Overall it was another successful season for the NASL with clubs like the New York Cosmos, Minnesota Kicks, Seattle Sounders, Tampa Bay Rowdies and San Jose Earthquakes continuing to draw good crowds and being joined this year by the Vancouver Whitecaps whose successful season finally convinced Vancouver's large and highly critical soccer following to come out and follow the club.

Detroit, Oakland, New England and Tulsa, all new clubs did extremely well, but not every street in the NASL is paved with gold, in fact far from it. Three key cities — Los Angeles, Chicago and Toronto — continue to give league officials sleepless nights while Rochester, Colorado, San Diego and Houston are all in difficulty, and in fact the Colorado franchise was in the process of being moved to Atlanta until the league vetoed it.

In addition to being a successful season it was also an eventful one. Giorgio Chinaglia of the New York Cosmos broke the NASL scoring record previously held jointly by John Kowalik (Chicago Mustangs) and Pepe Fernandez (San Diego Toros) who both scored 30 goals in the ill fated 1968 season. Chinaglia scored 34 times in 30 games in the regular season.

England international Trevor Francis made a tremendous impression in a short time scoring 22 goals in 20 regular season games for Detroit Express, while Alan Hinton of the Vancouver Whitecaps registered 30 assists which shattered the old league record in that department. Vancouver set up a record by scoring 14 straight wins before being beaten by Portland in the play offs and the Whitecaps also tied with the New York Cosmos for the most wins in one season with 24.

The unluckiest player of the year was undoubtedly former Spanish international Manuel Velazquez. Playing for Toronto Metros-Croatia against the Los Angeles Aztecs, the ex Real Madrid star was involved in a collision with Aztec goalkeeper Bob Rigby and the result was what the Toronto club doctor called a "disruption of the knee joint". Velazquez underwent surgery in Toronto and his knee had to be completely reconstructed by one of the worlds top knee surgeons. As a result he will be able to walk but Manual Velazquez will never be able to play soccer again.

GLANVILLE ON TARGET!

TARGET MAN (Macdonald and Jane's £3.75) is the latest soccer novel by Brian Glanville and once again this most experienced and entertaining author has come up with an absorbing tale.

"The Rise of Gerry Logan" was a tremendous book but I enjoyed "Target Man" as much if not more. It is the story of Tony Cardinale, a young player of Italian parents who moves from the North of England and Blachdale Rovers, in the Third Division, to fame and fortune in Italy.

It is probably no coincidence that Brian Glanville is a close friend of Georgi Chinaglia, who in real life played for Swansea, went to Lazio and represented Italy before moving to America. How much of Changlia is in Cardinale I do not know, and it does not matter.

All Glanville's work has an air of authority about it and his knowledge of Italy — a country with which he enjoys a sort of love hate relationship at least as far as their football is concerned — provides a so foundation for his work.

The book is written in the first person narrative and one wond whether Brain, a little bit of a frustrated footballer himself, would ha liked to have trod the path of Cardinale. Wouldn't we all like to professional footballers but would we like to the strains of living up the expectations and demands of being a star with a Roman club? T life of a goldfish.

I can think of players I would like to be though Tony Cardinale is n one but as a read "Target Man" is great fun and a welcome oasis amo the very ordinary books that are currently available. Glanville, deali as he is here with fiction, enjoys considerable licence to develop his sto but one doubts whether the truth is far divorced from the very hum story of Cardinale.

Coaching on film

by Ken Goldmen

RON GREENWOOD, a founder member of the London Football Coaches Association, recently addressed 90 of its members and guests on the 1978 World Cup in Argentina and the progress made in coaching.

The England manager dealt with and reviewed the performances of the main footballing nations, and then made a number of points, the most important of which were that goalkeepers were now part and parcel of the team and often had become almost auxiliary full backs and not just shot-stoppers.

Whether by accident or design, several of the points which Ron Greenwood mentioned were developed in an excellent film series on Independent Television shown at the unfavourably early hour of 9 am on a Sunday morning. These films entitled "Focus on Soccer" were made by Dpix Films for Harlech T.V. with the co-operation of the Football League.

There are seven films each lasting approximately 26 mins. and these deal with the goalkeeper, featuring Ray Clemence; the defender starring Colin Todd; the mid-field man showing the skills of Trevor Brooking; the winger depicting Gordon Hill and the striker starring Kevin Keegan.

In addition there is a history of the game coupled with basic skills showing Mick Channon in action and finally Sir Matt Busby with the Manchester United Club concentrate on team play.

To confirm that the films which are very well directed have much in common with Ron Greenwood's points, I would refer to two of them in particular. These are films by Clemence and Brooking on goalkeeping and mid-field play respectively, and the players are shown in action and have "voice-over" comments to make.

Clemence shows how to back up his defenders, and states when and how he determines whether to hang onto the ball to slow down the pace of the game, or whether to kick it out quickly and with length to try to catch out the opposition.

Brooking shows composure on the ball, ball skills and the ability to switch play with a single pass.

by Jimmy Hill £4.50

In this book Jimmy Hill, who is by virtue of his many associations with soccer acknowledged to be one of the leading authorities on the game, chooses 100 players whom he considers to be among the greatest of all time. The players range from Steve Bloomer of the 19th century to the new exciting Russian star Oleg Blokhin. Gordon Banks, Jimmy Greaves, Ivor Allchurch, Pelé are amongst those mentioned and Jimmy Hill outlines their careers and explains what made them great.

Obtainable from W.H. Smith and leading booksellers.

The Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR.

Book Reviews

Two autobiographies have reached the World Soccer Book Desk this month. **Celtic: My Team** (Souvenir Press, £3.95) by Danny McGrain looks back over this outstanding player's career with Celtic and Scotland.

McGrain, one of Britain's few World class players, gives a frank account of his years in Scottish football, with particular attention to Jock Stein.

Alex Stepney (Arthur Barker, £4.50) by Alex Stepney wins no prizes for the imaginative title! Fortunately more effort went into the contents and Stepney, goalkeeper for Manchester United when they won the European Cup in 1968 and later when they were relegated, provides tales of controversy, arguments, rows, punch-ups and laughs.

World Cup, the Argentina Story (Frederick Warne, £4.95) is by David Miller, chief soccer writer for the Daily Express. Miller looks back over the 1978 World Cup finals, from the qualifying rounds through to the ultimate clash between Argentina and Holland. There is also a section on past World Cup competitions.

The ABC of Soccer Sense (Batsford Limited, £4.50) by Tommy Docherty provides an insight into strategy and tactics of today by a man attempting to prove that soccer is as simple as ABC.

Also available: **Soccer Refereeing** (Faber Paperbacks, £1.75) by Jack Taylor; **The Scottish Football Book No 24** (Stanley Paul, £2.25) by Hugh Taylor.

Some useful addresses:
Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1 3PA.
Stanley Paul, 3 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6JD.
Faber & Faber, 3 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AU.
Batsford Limited, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH.
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JOHN MURRAY

WORLD CUP
The Argentina Story
By David Miller

The XIth World Cup, the world's major sporting spectacle watched by 1000 million viewers on TV, is captured in detail. David Miller, chief soccer correspondent with the *Daily Express*, knows the players and the managers from the inside. He has covered the World Cup scene for 20 years and gives detailed coverage of England's abortive attempt to qualify for the finals under Don Revie's management. There is a section on past history, 1930-74, and a study of Scotland's march to the finals under Ally MacLeod. Their sad collapse and MacLeod's failure, are part of the sports story of the year. Black and white photographs, 8 pages of colour.

£4.95 net

Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd
Warne House Vincent Lane
Dorking Surrey RH4 3FW

SWITZERLAND

by Arthur Rotmil

CONVENTIONAL FORMULA WILL RETURN, BUT...

THE EXPERIMENT of staging the championship in two almost separate rounds has finally been buried and it will be replaced next year with the conventional formula. The first round matches arranged on the generally accepted home & away basis, were only the stepping stone to the final and relegation pools respectively.

For the past few seasons the top six clubs took half the points total forward with them and played off for the title. The bottom six also took a halved points total to fight it out against relegation. As from season 1979-80, however, the Swiss League will again be divided into two Divisions of 14 teams each and the championship will be decided under the old system.

A number of clubs are nevertheless still unhappy, claiming that 22 matches are simply not enough, they demand that in view of increased expenditure they want more, preferably 36 games, like in Scotland and Austria (with only 10 clubs in the top Division). To bring the new larger League up to the required 14-team complement, this season only one club will be relegated and three from the Second Division promoted.

The national side made heavy weather of defeating a poor USA-Team by 2-0 in Lucerne in the first official international between these countries. It was incredible to watch the Swiss creating so many chances and missing nearly all of them through sheer inepitude in front of goal. Elsener and Schnyder did score to at least register a rare win.

This match was meant as a test before the tough European Championship game v. Holland in Bern, on October 11. But on this form it will be a miracle if the Swiss manage to avoid defeat, let alone get a good result. Even Ruedi Elsener, Switzerland's "Footballer of the Year", specially fetched from Eintracht Frankfurt disappointed the fans though he did get the first goal. The lack of penetrating strikers is national team manager Roger Volanthen's greatest worry.

The early League matches produced a leading quartet composed of Young Boys, Servette, St. Gallen and Grasshoppers. Young Boys of Bern under new manager Timo Konietzka (formerly with FC Zurich) have climbed to the top of the League for the first time in ten years! The "Boys" with the tough Brechbuhl the stalwart in defence, the veteran Odermatt and the German Hussner pulling the strings in midfield, plus Muller, Kuttel and the new discovery Thomas Zwahlen as strikers, looked good for six rounds. Then came the resounding crash — a 6-0 defeat at St. Gallen!

The Young Boys though, still headed the table with the unusual goal tally of 11-11, while Chenois lying 10th, showed a positive goals total of 10-9! St. Gallen a team without stars, won the League Cup back in August beating the champions Grasshoppers by 3-2 in the final. Manager Willy Sommer has done well on a shoe string budget and with moderately talented players.

> **Sommer has done well on a shoe string budget and with moderately talented players**

Suspended

Everybody's favourites Servette of Geneva meanwhile have stumbled through erratic performances. There was good news for their international striker "Joko" Pfister who has at last been reprieved by the FA (SFV). Pfister was suspended from the national side following the breaking of curfew before the World Cup qualifier v. Norway in Oslo two years ago.

Champions Grasshoppers also flattered briefly only to deceive and have already suffered two defeats. But in the European Cup the Zurich club opened brilliantly by bea FC Valetta (Malta) by 8-0 at home.

The outstanding player was forw Claudio Suber who along hit five goals a being earlier criticised for lack of shoot power! Raimondo Ponte, who fell temporarily with manager Helm Johannsen, scored twice. In the return "Hoppers" figured in an eight-goal thril winning 5-3 and 13-3 on aggregate.

Two other Swiss clubs also qualified Round Two: Lusanne (UEFA-C), put out expected the modest Luxembourgers Jeune d'Esch on a 2-0 aggregate. Lausanne made indifferent start to the championship. welcomed back the veteran internatio striker Fritz Kunzli, who links well with cen forward Walter Seiler, scorer of a hat-trick 27 minutes against Sion.

Servette eliminated the Greek side PAO Salonika in the Cup Winners Cup. After losi the first leg unhackily by 2-0, the Swiss storm back to triumph by 4-0. The only fallers we Basel, still in the process of rebuilding. Th fought gallantly against VfB Stuttgart losing home by 3-2 after playing with 10 men for minutes.

Criticism

Basel's midfielder Von Wartburg, who ha never been in any trouble before and regarded as one of the meekest players in Swi football, was sent off by a fussy Scottis referee McGinlay. His handling of the gam and especially of the incident concerning Vo Wartburg came under severe criticism here.

It revived complaints voiced during th World Cup following the refereeing by Civ Thomas of the Brazil v. Sweden game. Th Swiss Press declared that British referees ar no longer among the world's best and that i why fewer and fewer are selected for the reall important matches.

Leading scorers: Labhart (St. Gallen)—7 Risi (FC Zurich)—6; Degen (Nordstern) Salzeber (Chiasso), Schnyder (Servette) and Zwahlen (Young Boys)—each with 5.

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Voest Linz set the pace

WITH both champions Austria/WAC and cup winners SW Innsbruck taking time to settle down in the League this season, Voest Linz have been the early leaders.

With Willy Kreuz back from a lengthy sojurn in Holland, Voest established a lead which has been gradually reduced and Austria/WAC with new signing Walter Schachner at last revealing some useful form in attack, are menacing again.

A double header at the Prater Stadium to see Vienna beat Voest 1-0 and Austria/WAC defeat Wiener SC/Post 3-1 was watched by 18,000. This is a good crowd for Austrian League games these days since the fans will now only apparently watch attractive European Cup and international fixtures in the capital.

Wark of Ipswich scores from the penalty spot against Innsbruck in the UEFA Cup. Ispwich won 1-0.

SPORTING BRAGA SHOCK LEADERS

SPORTING Braga were the shock leaders after three matches in Portugal and this early success included the scalp of champions Porto who were beaten 3-1.

Oliveira gave Porto the lead with four minutes remaining of the first half but within a minute Braga were level and top scorer Chico Goedo hit another two after the break.

Porto with six new signings have taken some time to settle down and have now gone back to the top with this as their only League setback.

Braga have lost twice since their early flourish including 2-0 at Benfica who have themselves started only modestly.

Benfica have three new signings this season including Alhinho a defender back from a spell in Belgium and Jose Alves the international midfield player who has been playing in Spain with Salamanca.

Sporting Lisbon have had Jordao injured and the international striker is likely to be out of action for six weeks.

Of the first team trainers among First Division sides there are only three foreigners: John Mortimore (English) with Benfica; Milorad Pacic (Yugoslav) with Sporting and Mario Imbelloni (Argentine) with Famalicao.

ANDERLECHT LEAD

ANDERLECHT have edged into a clear lead in Belgium with seven wins and just a single defeat after eight matches.

Ruud Geels signed from Ajax has been a success at centre-forward averaging nearly two goals per League game since his arrival. He is top scorer with 12.

In contrast little or nothing has gone right for the present champions FC Bruges who have managed to average just a point a game and even found Julien Cools sent off against RWD Molenbeek rather harshly for nothing more than a mild protest to referee Francis Rion.

A surprise addition to the international side has been Eddy Voordeckers an 18 year old striker who plays in the Second Division for FC Diest.

Ajax dominate

WITH just one hiccup of a 1-0 defeat against Maastricht which cost them their 100% record, Ajax have been dominating the early season in taking a three point lead at the top of the table in Holland.

Included among their eight wins has been the scalp of champions PSV Eindhoven. After Dick Schoenaker had a goal disallowed he managed to put Ajax in front after 67 minutes and Ray Clarke made it safe with a penalty four minutes before the end.

Clarke signed in the close season from Sparta Rotterdam has been quite useful as a replacement for Ruud Geels now with Anderlecht. He is second highest scorer in Holland with eight of Ajax's 31 goals.

With only Rudi Krol left of the early 1970s successful side, Ajax who recently scored their 2,000th goal in professional league football have been rebuilding on rather more youthful lines though they did sign the experienced Sparta defender Wim Meutstege in the summer.

Krol who has been interesting Arsenal, has made it clear he wants to get away if possible. He even went to great lengths in an ITV interview to say that he thought Dutch football was on its way out as a professional force.

But he still has a couple of years of his contract to run out and at 29 is going to have to make a move sooner rather than later.

Still he could be right about the decline of the Dutch game because attendances have been rather poor this season. The nine First Division games recently attracted only 96,000 on aggregate with the top crowd of 27,000 watching PSV play Roda JC.

This game produced Roda's first defeat of the season by the odd goal in three and pegged them back after a start in which they did not concede a goal until the sixth game with veteran Jan Jonghloed, 38, keeping a clean sheet all this time.

He was finally beaten by Kees Kist of AZ 67 the present top Dutch scorer with ten goals for a team whose affinity with goals both for and against is remarkable. Their first nine matches produced 47 goals, twenty-seven of them by their own players.

Kist had previously scored his 100th goal during a game against Feyenoord who are themselves trying to persuade the Icelandic international centre-forward Petur Petursson to join them.

Sparta having transferred Clarke have further added to their British contingent by securing the services of Sammy Morgan the Irish international centre-forward from Cambridge United. This 31 year old former Brighton, Aston Villa and Port Vale striker has been an instant success with five goals in his first month with the club.

He links up with Stuart Parker a Preston born forward bought in the summer from Chesterfield but earlier with Blackpool and Southend United.

PSV have been hit by injuries with goalkeeper Jan van Beveren, striker Rene van der Kerkhof and skipper Willy van der Kuylen out of action at various times. Van der Kuylen has been their chief marksman and was taken off injured against Rangers in the first leg at Ibrox. He scored four times against Fenerbahce in the previous European Cup tie.

Action from the Ipswich UEFA Cup match at Portman Road. Ipswich won 1-0.

LEAGUE TABLES

CHILE
First Division

Palestino	24	18	3	3	51	23	39
Cobreola	24	16	4	4	51	22	36
O'Higgins	24	15	5	4	59	27	35
Everton	23	10	7	6	39	28	27
Union Espanola	24	10	6	8	31	31	26
Aviacion	24	9	7	8	39	38	25
Universidad Cat	24	9	7	8	33	25	25
Uni de Chile	24	8	9	7	28	25	25
Colo Colo	24	9	6	9	41	40	24
Lota Schwager	24	6	11	7	39	31	23
Santiago Morn	24	7	8	9	31	39	23
Nubiense	24	7	8	9	24	38	22
Audax Italiano	24	7	8	9	27	27	22
Concepcion	23	8	5	10	31	35	21
Green Cross	24	5	10	9	30	34	20
Huachipato	24	5	5	14	23	40	15
Coquimbo	24	5	5	14	25	37	15
Rangers	24	3	3	18	17	69	9

PERU
National Championship

Juan Aurich	12	6	5	1	16	12	17
Alianza Lima	11	7	2	2	29	7	16
Melgar	12	7	2	3	19	13	16
Sport Boys	12	5	5	2	17	13	15
Universitario	12	7	0	5	26	15	14
Sporting Cristal	12	5	4	3	19	15	14
Coronel Bolog'si	12	4	5	3	13	12	13
Colegio Nac. Iquitos	12	3	6	3	13	15	12
Leon de Huanuco	12	4	4	4	8	13	12
Atletico Torino	11	4	3	4	19	18	11
Deportivo Mun	12	4	2	6	15	13	10
Union Huaral	12	2	5	5	17	23	9
Deportivo Junin	12	3	3	6	16	29	9
Atletico Chalaco	12	2	4	6	16	22	8
Defensor Lima	12	2	3	7	14	25	7
Alfonso Ugarte	12	2	3	7	9	27	7

COLOMBIA
"Finalizacion" Championship:

Group A

Nacional Medellin	14	9	0	5	17
America Cali	14	5	7	2	18
Millionarios Bogota	14	6	3	5	15
Cucuta	14	5	5	4	19
Santa Fe Bogota	14	5	3	6	27
Deportivo Cali	14	4	4	6	18
Bucaramanga	14	3	5	6	16

Group B

Union Magdalena	14	6	5	3	16
Cristal Caldas	14	6	5	3	25
Jnr Barranquilla	14	7	3	4	23
Pereira	14	5	3	6	19
Tolima	14	3	6	5	12
Medellin	14	2	6	6	17
Quindio	14	2	5	7	8

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

England, Bulgaria, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Ireland Rep.

24. 5.78	Denmark 3 Ireland Rep. 3
20. 9.78	Ireland Rep. 0 N. Ireland 0
20. 9.78	Denmark 3 England 4
11.10.78	Denmark 2 Bulgaria 2
25.10.78	Ireland Rep. 1 England 1
25.10.78	Northern Ireland 2 Denmark 1
29.11.78	Bulgaria v. N. Ireland
7. 2.79	England v. N. Ireland
2. 5.79	Ireland Rep. v. Denmark
2. 5.79	Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
23. 5.79	Bulgaria v. Ireland Rep.
6. 6.79	Bulgaria v. England
6. 6.79	Denmark v. N. Ireland
12. 9.79	England v. Denmark
17.10.79	Ireland Rep. v. Bulgaria
17.10.79	Northern Ireland v. England
31.10.79	Bulgaria v. Denmark
21.11.79	England v. Bulgaria
21.11.79	N. Ireland v. Ireland Rep.
6. 2.80	England v. Ireland Rep.

Group 2

Austria, Belgium, Scotland, Norway, Portugal

30. 8.78	Norway 1 Austria 2
20. 9.78	Belgium 1 Norway 1
20. 9.78	Austria 3 Scotland 2
11.10.78	Portugal 1 Belgium 1
25.10.78	Scotland 3 Norway 2
15.11.78	Austria v. Portugal
29.11.78	Portugal v. Scotland
7. 2.79	Scotland v. Belgium
28. 3.79	Belgium v. Austria
2. 5.79	Austria v. Belgium
10/15.5.79	Norway v. Portugal
7. 6.79	Norway v. Scotland
29. 8.79	Austria v. Norway
12. 9.79	Norway v. Belgium
17.10.79	Belgium v. Portugal
17.10.79	Scotland v. Austria
1.11.79	Portugal v. Norway
21.11.79	Belgium v. Scotland
21.11.79	Portugal v. Austria
6. 2.80	Scotland v. Portugal

Group 3

Cyprus, Spain, Rumania, Yugoslavia

4.10.78	Yugoslavia 1 Spain 2
25.10.78	Rumania 3 Yugoslavia 2
15.11.78	Spain v. Rumania
13.12.78	Spain v. Cyprus
1. 4.79	Cyprus v. Yugoslavia
4. 4.79	Rumania v. Spain
13. 5.79	Cyprus v. Rumania
10.10.79	Spain v. Yugoslavia
31.10.79	Yugoslavia v. Rumania
14.11.79	Yugoslavia v. Cyprus
18.11.79	Rumania v. Cyprus
9.12.79	Cyprus v. Spain

Group 4

German DR, Iceland, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland

6. 9.78	Iceland 0 Poland 2
20. 9.78	Netherlands 3 Iceland 0
4.10.78	German DR 3 Iceland 1
11.10.78	Switzerland 1 Netherlands 3
15.11.78	Netherlands v. German DR
15.11.78	Poland v. Switzerland
28. 3.79	Netherlands v. Switzerland
18. 4.79	German DR v. Poland
2. 5.79	Poland v. Netherlands
5. 5.79	Switzerland v. German DR
22. 5.79	Switzerland v. Iceland
9. 6.79	Iceland v. Switzerland
5. 9.79	Iceland v. Netherlands
12. 9.79	Iceland v. German DR
12. 9.79	Switzerland v. Poland
26. 9.79	Poland v. German DR
10.10.79	Poland v. Iceland
13.10.79	German DR v. Switzerland
17.10.79	Netherlands v. Poland
21.11.79	German DR v. Netherlands

Group 5

France, Luxemburg, Sweden, Czechoslovakia

2. 9.78	France 2 Sweden 2
4.10.78	Sweden 1 Czechoslovakia 3
7.10.78	Luxemburg 1 France 3
18. 2.79	France v. Luxemburg
4. 4.79	Czechoslovakia v. France
1. 5.79	Luxemburg v. Czechoslova
6/13.5.79	Sweden v. Luxemburg
5. 9.79	Sweden v. France
10.10.79	Czechoslovakia v. Sweden
23.10.79	Luxemburg v. Sweden
17.11.79	France v. Czechoslovakia
24.11.79	Czechoslovakia v. Luxembu

Group 6

Finland, Greece, Hungary, USSR

24. 5.78	Finland 3 Greece 0
20. 9.78	Finland 2 Hungary 1
20. 9.78	USSR 2 Greece 0
11.10.78	Hungary 2 USSR 0
11.10.78	Greece 8 Finland 1
28.10.78	Greece v. Hungary
2. 5.79	Hungary v. Greece
19. 5.79	USSR v. Hungary
4. 7.79	Finland v. USSR
12. 9.79	Greece v. USSR
17.10.79	Hungary v. Finland
31.10.79	USSR v. Finland

Group 7

Germany FR, Malta, Wales, Turkey

25.10.78	Wales 7 Malta 0
29.11.78	Wales v. Turkey
25. 2.79	Malta v. Germany FR
1. 4.79	Turkey v. Germany FR
2. 5.79	Wales v. Germany FR
2. 6.79	Malta v. Wales
17.10.79	Germany FR v Wales
21.11.79	Turkey v. Wales
22.12.79	Germany FR v. Turkey
27. 2.80	Germany FR v. Malta

Dates of Malta and Turkey still provisional

ARGENTINA
Metropolitan First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Boca Jnrs	29	15	10	4	42	30	40
Quilmes	29	14	9	6	36	30	37
Racing Club	29	14	8	7	50	34	36
Independiente	29	12	9	8	51	38	33
Union S. Fe	29	11	10	8	36	32	32
Gimnasia La Plata	29	9	14	6	26	25	32
Newell's OB's	28	8	15	5	40	26	31
Rosario Central	28	8	15	5	26	17	31
Argentinos Jnrs	28	11	8	9	45	36	30
San Lorenzo	28	11	8	9	33	33	30
Estudiantes La P.	29	11	8	10	40	29	30
Colon S. Fe	28	10	9	9	44	39	29
River Plate	29	9	11	9	41	35	29
Huracan	29	8	9	12	34	33	25
Atlanta	29	6	13	10	34	42	25
Velez Sarsfield	28	6	12	10	25	29	24
Banfield	29	5	13	11	30	45	23
All Boys	28	7	8	13	22	37	22
Chacarita Jnrs	28	7	8	13	24	45	22
Platense	29	5	11	13	27	46	21
Estudiantes BA	28	5	8	15	28	53	18

URUGUAY: Major League (after 7 games): Section A: 1) Sud America 10 pts; 2) Wanderers, Rentistas 9; 4) La Luz, Penarol Montevideo 8; 5) Miramar 7; 7) Bella Vista 6; 8) Fenix 5; 9) 18 de Julio (Fray Bentos) 2; 10) Peñarol de Paso de los Toros 0. Section B: 1) River Plate 11; 2) Cerro, Danubio 10; 4) Huracan Buceo 8; 5) Central Espanol 7; 6) Defensor 6; 7) Liverpool, Santa Bernardina 4; 9) Nacional 3; 10) Huracan de Treinta y Tres 1.

ECUADOR: Closing Championship (after 4 games): Section A: 1) Nacional (Quito), Barcelona (Guayaquil), Emelec (Guayaquil), Tecnico Universitario (Ambato), Bonita Banana (Machala) 5 pts; 6) Deportivo Cuenca 4; 7) Universidad Catolica (Quito), Universidad de Portoviejo, Deportivo Quito 3; 10) Union Deportiva Valdez (Milagro) 2. Section B (leaders): 1) America (Quito 7; 2) Liga Deportiva Universitario (Quito), Audaz Octubrino (Guayaquil) 6.
PARAGUAY: First Division (3rd round after 5 games): Section A: 1) Olimpia 6 pts; 2) Nacional, Sol de America 4; 4) Sportivo Luqueno, Guarani 3. Section B: 1) Libertad, Cerro Porteno 5; 3) Rubio Nu, River Plate 4; 5) Tembetary 2.

SWITZERLAND

Servette	10	6	3	1	27	8	15
Young Boys	10	7	1	2	15	13	15
St. Gallen	10	7	0	3	25	18	14
Zurich	10	4	4	2	19	13	12
Basel	10	4	4	2	16	17	12
Neuchatel X	10	3	4	3	23	16	10
Grasshoppers	10	4	2	4	14	14	10
Chenois	10	4	1	5	15	15	9
Lausanne	10	3	3	4	20	21	9
Chiasso	10	2	2	6	15	21	6
Nordstern	10	0	5	5	10	21	5
Sion	10	0	3	7	7	29	3

CLASSIFIED RESULTS
SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
(Libertadores Cup)
Group 2
August 1
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) (1) 2 (Ravello, Cueto)
THE STRONGEST (Bolivia) 0
Final Standing

Alianza Lima (Peru)	6	5	1	0	19	5	11
Sporting Cristal (Peru)	6	3	1	2	9	9	7
The Strongest (Bolivia)	6	2	0	4	7	12	4
Oriente Petrolero (Bolivia)	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

Semi final group A
September 13
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) 0
RIVER PLATE (Argentina) 0
Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrota, Sa, Mouzo, Suarez, Benitez, Suna, Zanabria (Husillos), Mastrangelo, Alvarez, Perotti (Salinas).
River Plate: Fillol, Saporiti, Perfumo, Passarella, H. Lopez, J. Lopez, Merlo, Alonso, Commisso, Luque, Ortiz.
Semi final Group B
September 14
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) (2) 3 (Cueto, Sotil, Cubillas)
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) 0
Alianza: Caceres, Duarte, Olaechea, Alianga, Rojas, Cueto, Cubillas (Ilescas), Velasquez, Ravelo, Sotil, La Rosa (Perales).
Cerro Porteno: R. Fernandez, Rodriguez, Ovelar, Carmona, Insfran, G. Gonzales, Fleitas, Pesoa, Gimenez, H. Gonzales, Florentin (I. Fernandez).
September 17
DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (0) 1 (Benitez)
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) (0) 1 (Bataglia)
Dep. Cali: Zape, Escobar (Jaramillo), Valverde (Moreno), Landucci, Torres, Umana, Calcedo, Scotta, Castro, Dapina, Benitez.
Cerro Porteno: Gimenez, Rodriguez, Carmona, Ovelar, Insfran, G. Gonzalez, Gimenez, Pesoa, Bataglia, H. Gonzalez, Florin.

River Plate, left to right: Alonso, Passarella, Fillol, Luque, Perfumo, Gonzalez, Sapporitti, Lopez (JJ), Merlo, Ortiz, Hector, Lopez.

BELGIUM

Anderlect	8	7	0	1	24	8	14
Beerschot	8	5	1	2	14	3	11
Waterschei	8	3	4	1	7	5	10
Beveren-Waas	7	3	3	1	13	5	9
Lierse	8	4	1	3	10	10	9
Standard	8	3	3	2	14	11	9
Antwerp	8	3	3	2	10	7	9
Beringen	8	3	3	2	8	11	9
Waregem	7	2	4	1	9	9	8
SC Charleroi	8	4	0	4	10	13	8
Lokeren	8	3	2	3	9	10	8
Bruges	8	2	4	2	9	9	8
RWD Molenbeek	8	3	1	4	10	14	7
LA Louviere	8	2	3	3	14	12	7
Liege	8	3	0	5	8	14	6
Winterslag	8	1	2	5	6	12	4
Berchem	8	0	4	4	4	14	4
Kortrijk	8	0	2	6	3	15	2

ITALY

Milan	3	2	1	0	4	0	5
Perugia	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Torino	3	2	1	0	3	1	5
Juventus	3	1	2	0	8	4	4
Lazio	3	1	2	0	6	4	4
Napoli	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Inter	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Bologna	3	1	1	1	7	5	3
Fiorentina	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Ascoli	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Atalanta	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Catanzaro	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Vicenza	3	1	0	2	4	7	2
Verona	3	0	2	1	3	7	2
Roma	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Avellino	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

SCOTLAND

Celtic	9	6	0	3	20	12	12
Dundee Utd	9	4	4	1	12	7	12
Hibernian	9	4	4	1	10	7	12
Aberdeen	9	4	3	2	20	10	11
Partick Thistle	9	3	3	3	10	10	9
St. Mirren	9	4	1	4	10	10	9
Rangers	9	1	6	2	9	9	8
Morton	9	2	3	4	11	15	7
Hearts	9	1	4	4	8	17	6
Motherwell	9	2	0	7	7	20	4

SPAIN

Real Madrid	6	4	2	0	12	7	10
Ath Bilbao	6	3	2	1	10	3	8
Barcelona	6	4	0	2	12	5	8
Es Barcelona	6	4	0	2	6	4	8
At Madrid	6	3	1	2	13	11	7
Las Palmas	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
Huelva	6	3	1	2	9	10	7
Gijon	5	3	0	2	8	4	6
Real Sociedad	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Burgos	6	0	6	0	9	9	6
Valencia	6	2	2	2	5	6	6
Sevilla	5	1	3	1	10	6	5
Real Zaragoza	6	2	0	4	7	11	4
Hercules Ali	6	2	0	4	10	15	4
Rayo Vallecano	6	1	2	3	10	15	4
Salamanca	6	1	2	3	3	9	4
Santander	6	1	1	4	8	13	3
Celta Vigo	6	1	1	4	3	8	3

WEST GERMANY

Kaiserslautern	9	5	4	0	21	9	14
Bayern	9	6	1	2	24	10	13
Hamburger SV	9	5	2	2	19	9	12
VfB Stuttgart	9	5	1	3	18	15	11
Ein Frankfurt	9	5	1	3	16	15	11
Ein Braunschweig	9	4	3	2	16	16	11
Fort. Dusseldorf	9	3	4	2	20	15	10
Schalke 04	9	3	4	2	16	12	10
VIL Bochum	9	3	3	3	15	13	9
Cologne	9	2	5	2	11	11	9
Bor M'gladbach	9	3	2	4	16	14	8
Bor Dortmund	9	3	2	4	13	19	8
Hertha BSC Berlin	9	2	3	4	15	16	17
MSV Duisburg	9	2	3	4	16	27	7
Werder Bremen	9	2	2	5	10	17	6
Nurnberg	9	3	0	6	10	23	6
Arm Bielefeld	9	1	3	5	9	17	5
Darmstadt 98	9	1	3	5	15	25	5

AUSTRIA

VOeEST Linz	9	6	1	2	11	5	13
Rapid	9	5	2	2	10	5	12
Austria/WAC	9	5	1	3	20	15	11
Austria S'burg	9	5	0	4	11	16	10
Wiener SK	9	3	3	3	18	11	9
Sturm Graz	9	3	2	4	8	12	8
SSW Innsbruck	9	2	3	4	12	13	7
Admira/Wacker	9	2	3	4	9	12	7
Grazer AK	9	2	3	4	11	15	7
Vienna	9	1	4	4	13	19	6

The Atletico Mineiro (Brazil) team which met River Plate in the South American Cup.

EURO – RESULTS

LIVERPOOL'S elimination by Nottingham Forest was the major shock of the first rounds of the 1978-79 European club competitions.

Winners of the Champions' Cup for the past two years and of the UEFA Cup the season before, Liverpool were at their most vulnerable in an English setting and against the one team who had no fear of their reputation.

Making tactical mistakes in both legs, Liverpool's reign ended 2-0 on aggregate and Forest go on to meet another old European campaign, Ferenc Puskas, now boss of AEK Athens, in the second round.

Not so surprising, considering their poor form since Liverpool beat them at Wembley in May, was the elimination of Brugge by Wisla Krakow.

As for the other holders from last season, PSV Eindhoven, the UEFA Cup winners, are making progress in the Champions' Cup, while Anderlecht had a bye in the first round of the Cup-winners' Cup only to be drawn with their toughest rivals, Barcelona, in the second!

The most outstanding recovery was that of Red Star Belgrade in the UEFA Cup. With just over half an hour to go in the second leg they were four down to Dynamo East Berlin, yet stormed back to win on the away goals rule!

There were penalty kick wins for Dynamo Dresden (Champions') and Milan (UEFA) while top scorers in single matches were Grasshoppers of Zurich, who scored eight against Valletta, and Real Madrid with seven away to Progres Niedercorn.

Top individual scorer was Grasshoppers' Claudio Sulser with five, while Willy Van der Kuylen (PSV) and Chico Gordo (Braga) each scored four in a game. There were hat-tricks for Sandri Altobelli (Internazionale), Wolfgang Riediger (Dynamo Berlin) and Walter Kelsch (Stuttgart).

Worst crowd was the 600 who saw Bohemians against Omonia Nicosia. There were 70,000 attendances for Real Madrid-Progres and Napoli-Tbilisi.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Preliminary round — first leg

Monaco 3 (Onnis 42, Zorzetto 49, Nogues 63)
Steaua Bucharest 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 6,434. Ref: Franco Martinez (Spain). Aug. 15.

Remarkable Monaco owed their victory to Argentine talent, with their first and last goals coming from Delio Onnis and Raoul Nogues. If, that is, you can call the dangerous and consistent Onnis Argentine, since he was born in Rome shortly before his parents emigrated. Bookings for Courbis and Zorzetto of Monaco and Sames of Steaua, but it wasn't a dirt game.

Second leg

Steaua 2 (Troi 51 and 77)
Monaco 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 18,000. Ref: Dorflinger (Swz). Aug. 30.
Monaco 3-2 on agg.

Steaua had been handicapped in the first leg because their league season was still 10 days away, but they surprised Moncao by the determination of their recovery bid. In a four-minute spell early in the first half they rattled the bar and fluffed two gaping chances yet even though the breakthrough goal didn't come until the second half they still did enough to worry the French champions.

First round — first leg
(All matches Sept 13)

AEK Athens 6 (Bajevic 4 and 29, Ardizgiou 17, Rassos 39, Nikolau 59, Mavros 60) Porto 1 (Oliveira 51)
HT: 4-0. Att: 30,000. Ref: Azim Zade (R).

A brilliant return to the Champions' Cup for Ferenz Puskas, now boss of the Greek champions after Tschik Cajkovski switch to Xurich during the summer after leading AEK to the Cup and league double.

Zbrojovka Brno 2 (Kroupa 72, Janecka 77)
Ujpest Dozsa 2 (Fekete 41, Toroscik 67)
HT: 0-1. Att: 20,000. Ref: Kuston (Pol).

Brno, managed by another old Champions' Cup campaigner in Josef Masopust, battled back for a draw after going 2-0 behind to that goal from Ujpest's disgraced World Cup centre forward Andras Torocsik. Their lightback would have important consequences . . .

Brugge 2 (Ceulemanns 22, Cools 27)
Wisla Krakow 1 (Kapka 79)
HT: 2-0. Att: 17,000. Ref: Wright (N. Ire).

Brugge were without Raoil Lambert, but when Julien Cools banged in a free kick for their second goal it seemed their lean spell — which has lasted since their semi-final win over Juventus last season — was behind them. Zdislaw Kapka gave second thoughts for last season's runners-up.

Fenerbahce 2 (Rasil 17, Cemil 43)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Brandts 29)
HT: 2-1. Att: 45,000. Ref: Manojlovski (Yug).

Erny Brandts maintained the snap goal reputation he earned during the World Cup as the UEFA Cup-holders began their bid on Europe's top prize.

Grasshoppers 8 (Ponte 31, 35, Sulser 40, 47, 57, 62, 64, Wehrli 68)
Valletta 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 3,500. Ref: Hermann (Lux).

Claudio Sulser made a storming entry to the Champions' Cup, with five goals in a 24-minute spell including a seven-minute hat-trick.

Juventus 1 (Virdis 9)
Glasgow Rangers 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 62,500. Ref: Raines (Rum).

Juventus began, as ever, among the favourites but also, as usual, without the benefit of league football, since the Italian season again didn't get under way properly (you can't count the Cup preliminaries) until the start of October. Accordingly it wasn't so surprising that their World Cup-weary team were below their best. Pietro Paolo Virdis, given his chance to establish his ascendancy at centre forward over veteran Roberto Boninsegna, converted Giuseppe Furino's pass for a quick opening goal, but Roberto Bettega squandered two later chances and, in the last minute, saw goalkeeper McCloy make a brilliant save from a header, after a Virdis cross. Rangers, under new boss John Greig, packed theor midfield, but were also grateful to McCloy for another flying save from Antonello Cuccureddu, just before half-time. Rangers' Tom and Alex Forsyth were booked, along with Romeo Benetti, who was substituted after another foul on Smith.

1st FC Koln 4 (Littbarski 12, Neumann 26, 39, Konopka 72)
IF Akranes 1 (Haligrimsson 30)
HT: 3-1. Att: 9,000. Ref: Lund-Sorensen (Den).

The West German double-winners found it fairly easy against George Kirby's Icelanders, with new starlet Pierre Littbarski leading the way to goal.

Linfield 0
Lillestrom 0
Att: 6,000. Ref: Van Ettekoven (Hol).

The nearest to goals came in the first half. Billy Murray had a shot swept off the line by Jan Birkeland, and at the other end Davy Nixon cleared from by the post after an effort by Tom Lund. Linfield were lucky not to concede a penalty five minutes from time when Peter Murray Rafferty brought down Lund.

Malmoe FF 0
Monaco 0
Att: 5,473. Ref: Prokop (EG).

Nottingham Forest 2 (Birtles 26, Barrett 87)
Liverpool 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 38,316. Ref: Linemayr (Aus).

Liverpool's Eruopean champions were playing their 100th European game in the most difficult circumstances. This was the first all-English tie in the competition's history and they had to face a Forest team who, the previous season, had beaten them to the League title and in the League Cup Final after a replay. Liverpool manager Bob Paisley had said after the Wembley win over Brugge that he thought Forest would present the biggest threat — and so it proved. Forest boss Brian Clough controversially sold his big centre forward Peter Withe to Newcastle shortly before this tie for £200,000 and thrust forward inexperienced 22-year-old local lad Gary Birtles. Yet Birtles rewarded Clough's gamble by putting Forest ahead after Tony Woodcock beat Emlyn Hughes on the edge of the penalty box. Liverpool had a couple of lucky escapes and needed some sharp saves from England's Ray Clemence to stay in the game before, late in the second half, pushing forw in a bid to equalise. This was bad Europe tactics, as Paisley admitted afterwards. W three minutes remaining and Liverp unusually stretched at the back that boy Birt chased down the left, outwitted Case Thompson and his cross was headed down Woodcock for full back Colin Barrett to r home

Odense BK 2 (Munk Jensen 32, 44)
Lokomotiv Sofia 2 (Kolev 59, Velitzkov 67)
HT: 2-0. Att: 7,250. Ref: Farrell (Rep. Ire.)

Omonia Nicosia 2 (Kanaris 21, Goutokritou 5
Bohemians Dublin 1 (P. O'Connor 44)
HT: 1-1 Att: 15,000. Ref: Doudine (Bul).

Omonia made all the running early on, but h only three poor efforts before finally go ahead. Criacakis Mavris put in a high cen which top scorer Sotiris Kaiakas headed on skipper Andreas Kanaris to convert. Kana missed a point-blank chance soon after a Bohemians equalised on half-time with a 2 yard drive from Padraig O'Connor. Kana made Omonia's second for Goutokritou Bohemians sat back in defence in the seco half.

Partizan Beograd 2 (Prekazi 5, Djorovic 47)
Dynao Dresden 0
HT- 1-0, Att: 50,000. Ref: Ok (Turkey).

A floodlight failure halted the game for seve minutes when Partizan were 2-0 up and after t break they failed to get back into their stride

Real Madrid 5 (Jensen 12, Juanito 30, and 72, D Bosque 40, Wolff 83)
Progres Niedercorn 0
HT: 3-0 Att: 70,000. Ref: De Silva (Port).

Real Madrid were back in their own Chamar thanks to their appeal against the three-gar ban instituted two years ago. There were problems on the field either!

Valkeakosken Haka 0
Dynamo Kiev 1 (Boltacha 72)
HT: 0-0. Att: 6,000. Ref: Nyhus (Norway).

Vilaznia Shkoder 2 (Zhega 8, Baligjoni 55)
Austria Vienna 0
HT: 1-0 Att: 13,000. Ref: Anderco (hum).

Vilaznia, first Albanian team in the competiti for several years, made an unpleasant trip of for last season's Cup-winners runners-up a their World Cup stars.

Second legs
(All Sept 27)

IA Akranes 1 (Hein own goal 8)
1st FC Koln 1 (Van Gool 72)
HT: 1-0. Att: 4,500. Ref: Smith (Scot).
Koln 4-2 on agg.

Austria Vienna 4 (Parits 21 pen, Schachner 3 74, R. Sara 48)
Vilaznia Shkoder 1 (Hafizi 82'
HT: 2-0 Att: 25,000. Ref: Wencl (Czech).
Austria 4-3 on agg.

Walter Schachner, a close-season signing fro second division Alpine Donzwitz after the Wor Cup, was the Austrian hero as they battled bac to win the tie.

Bohemians 1 (Joyce 27)
Omonia Nicosia 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 600 (!) Ref: Bridges (Wales).
Bohemians on away goal — 2-2 agg.

Only 600 fans turned up at Flower Lodge Cork, where Bohemians had to stage this gam because of the one-season ban incurred o Dalymount Park after crowd trouble during las season's UEFA Cup tie with Newcastle. After thi game Bohemians sent a plea for UEFA to rais the ban because "it cost us £6,000 in gat receipts.0' Ex-youth international Paddy Joyc was the goal hero, flicking on a header fro skipper Turlough O'Connor. Joyce had a coupl more chances but poor finishing and the fin form of Cypriot goalkeeper Loucas denied him

Dynamo Dresden 2 (Doerner 8, Weber 68)
Partizan Beograd 0
HT: 1-0. 90 mins: 2;0. Att: 38,000. Ref: Lipato (R).
Dresden 5-4 on pens — agg 2-2 aet.

A dramatic win for Dresden depite havin Hartmut Schade sent off in the first half.

Rangers 2 (MacDonald 18, Smith 68)
Juventus 0

Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Peter Shilton is beaten by a header from Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish but Viv Anderson is there to clear off the line and to keep the score at 0-0.

HT: 1-0. Att: 44,000. Ref: Eschweiler (WG).
Rangers 2-1 on agg.
Jure had Gentile, Virdis and Furino all booked as they struggled in vain to hold back the Scottish tide. Dino Zoff made a series of fine saves, and Bettega and Virdis both squandered chances before Gordon Smith's powerful header from a Bobby Russell free kick sent Ran Rangers into the second round. Rangers had Jardine booked.

Dynamo Kiev 3 (Veremeyev 12, Khapsaliz 34, Buryark 64)
Valkeakosken Haka 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 40,000. Ref: Tsanakikidis (Gr). Played in Kharkov.
Kiev 4-0 on agg

Lillestrom 1 (Lonstad 12)
Linfield 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 5,560. Ref: Di Carlo (EG).
Lillestrom 1-0 on agg
Linfield had goalkeeper Ken Barclay sent off for fighting five minutes from the end. Earlier only his fine saves had kept Linfield in with a shout. After Barclay knocked over Birkelund in a goal-mouth melee, the Norwegians were awarded a penalty. Linfield took off Hewitt and sent on substitute Charlie Dunlop, and he saved Lund's penalty after it rebounded from a post! Linfield charged upfield and saw their last chance disappear when Kirk's shot bbounced off the bar.

Liverpool 0
Nottingham Forest 0
Att: 51,67. Ref: Konrath (F).
Forest 2-0 on agg.
Liverpool's exit after three years' unbroken success in Europe — first the UEFA Cup, then twice the Champions' Cup — was a blood and thunder affair.
Instead of playing their normal patient game which had served them so well, they resorted to the up-and-under routine which betrayed their anxiety. After 23 minutes Viv Anderson cleared off the line from Kenny Dalglish, and it was the Scot who forced the best save out of Peter Shilton 10 minutes from time. But by then it was too late and Forest might well have had a penalty after Thompson appeared to block a through ball with his arm in the dying minutes. "Liverpool threw everythingat us, except the docks," said Forest manager Clough.

Lok. Sofia 2 (Mihailov 26 pen, Kostov 50)
Odense 1 (Erikson 23 pen)
HT: 1-1. Att: 25,000. Ref: Oezbirgul (Tur).
Lok Sofia 4-3 on agg

Monaco 0
Malmoe FF 1 (Kinvall 35)
HT: 0-1. Att: 10,000. Ref: Frickel (WG).
Malmoe 1-0 on agg

Progres Niedercorn 0
Real Madrid 7 (Pirri 10, Jensen 19, Stielike 28, Santillana 46, 87, Garcia Hernandez 65, Bossi 89 own goal).
HT: 0-3. Att: 6,000. Ref: Peeters (Bel).
Real Madrid 12-0 on agg.

PSV Eindhoven 6 (Van der Kuylen 10, 22, 71, 74, Deykers 49, 55)
Fenerbahce 1 (Rasit 87)
HT: 2-0. Att: 27,000. Ref: Syme (Scot).
PSV 7-2 on agg

Ujpest Dozsa 0
Zbrojovka Brno 2 (Dosek 11, Krcups 35)
HT: 0-2. Att: 18,000. Ref: Agnolin (It)
Brno 4-2 on agg

Porto 4 (Vital 63, 83, Teixeira 79, Gomes 88)
AEK Athens 1 (Bajevic 32)
HT: 0-1. Att: 35,000. Ref: Corver (Hol)
AEK 7-5 on agg

Valletta 3 (Agius 56, Seychell 82, Farrugia 89 pen)
Grasshoppers 5 (Sulser 18 pen, Ponte 61, 69, Hermann 75, Traber 77)
HT: 0-1. Att: 2,000. Ref: Latzin (Aus)
Grasshoppers 13-3 on agg

Wisla Krakow 3 (Kmiecik 27, Lipka 87, Krupinski 88)
Brugge 1 (Van der Eycken 50)
HT: 1-0. Att: 40,000. Ref: Hirviniemi (Fin).
Wisla 4-3 on agg
Two goals in the last three minutes sealed the fate of Brugge. Janusz Krupinski was the Polish hero.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
First Round — First legs
(Played Sept 13, unless stated)

Anderlecht (holders) — bye.

Bodoe Glimt 4 (Solhaug 55, and 86, Berg 58, Hansen 72 pen)
Union Sportive Lux 1 (Telgen 1)
HT: 0-1 Att: 4,900. Ref: Nielsen (Den). Played Aug 27.

Alkmaar 0
Ipswich 0
Att: 15,750. Ref: Redelfs (WG).
Alkmaar, with seven Dutch internationals, were foiled partly thanks to the advice of a Dutchman — Arnold Muehren, Ipswich's signing from Twente who was ineligible for this tie. They dominated the early play and Kees Kist had one effort foiled by Paul Cooper. However Ipswich should have scored after 11 minutes when skipper Mick Mills and John Wark beat the offside trap only for goalkeeper Meskovic to scramble Wark's shot to safety. Soon after back-to-form Kevin Beattie came forward but his header flew just the wrong side of the post. Alkmaar boss decided not to risk left back Hugo Hovenkamp who has just regained match fitness after the injury which kept him out of the World Cup.

Barcelona 3 (Krankl 1 and 46, Sanchez 25)
Shackler Donetz 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 45,000. Ref: Reynolds (Eales).
A fine start in Europe for Barcelona's new signing, Hans Krankl. The Austrian put the Spanish cup-winners ahead with a neat header to a cross from Carlos Rexach.

Beveren 3 (Albert 7, Stevens 29, Schoenberger 60 pen)
Ballymena 0.
HT: 2-0. Att: 17,000. Ref: Correia (Portugal).

Ferencvaros 2 (Nyilasi 16, Major 43)
Kalmar 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 24,000. Ref: Lagoyannis (Gr)

Floriana 1 (R. Xuereb 47 pen)
Internazionale 3 (Altobelli 14, 80 pen, 89)
HT: 0-1. Att: 15,000. Ref: Reeves (Eng).

Frem Copenhagen 2 (Jacobsen 20, H. Hansen 80)
Nancy 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 1,136. Ref: Moffatt (N. Ire)
Nancy complained bitterly about the standard of the lights in the Copenhagen Idraetspark which added to their fears as they were already, of course, without the injured Michel Platini.

Marek Stanke Dimitrov 3 (V. Petrov 67, B. Petrov 70 and 89)
Aberdeen 2 (Harvie 6, Harper 76)
HT: 0-1 Att. 20,000. Ref: Van Melkebeke (Bel).
Brothers Ivan and Ventislav Petrov were Marek's heroes, though the winner came only after when Aberdeen were down to 10 men after the explusion of substitute Doug Rookvie.

PAOK Salonika 2 (Kermanides 76, Sarafis 86)
Servette 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 20,000. Ref: Barbulescu (Rum).

Nogomenti Rijeka 3 (Tomic 35, Durkalic 43, Cukrov 72)
Wrexham 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 10,500. Ref: Bergamo (Italy).
Wrexham could have gone ahead after 10 minutes, but Dixie McNeil's shot hit the bar and Edmond Tomic scored the first for Rijeka following a free kick. Yugoslav international winger Damir Desnica, the deaf-mute, was tormenting Alan Hill on the left, and had one shot diverted against the bar and over, and another blocked only by the angle of the goal, but it was Desnica who created the move after which goalkeeper Dai Davies dropped the ball, and Salih Durkalic hit a second. Cukrov missed an open goal after running almost the length of the pitch at the start of the second half, but he made up in the 72nd minute by scoring Rijeka's third. Wrexham's Welsh international defender John Roberts was sent off for a crude tackle in the 88th minute.

Shamrock Rovers 2 (Giles 44, Lynex 67)
Apoel Nicosia 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 6,500. Ref: Verbeke (France).
Johnny Giles, player-manager of Shamrock as well as the Republic of Ireland, entered his 15th season in European football with the goal which set Shamrock well on their way after a mistake by goalkeeper Herodotou. In goal for Shamrock was 37-year-old John Osborne, the former West Bromwich 'keeper, who had come out of retirement at the request of Giles after Alan O'Neill was injured in a pre-season tournament in Spain.

Sporting Lisbon 0
Banik Ostrava 1 (Antalik 30)
HT: 0-1. Att: 45,000. Ref: Barbaresco (Italy)

Universitatea Craiova 3 (Camataru 12 and 59, Crisan 81)
Fortuna Dusseldorf 4 (Zimmermann 23, Lund 36, Allofs 50, Pilan 85)
HTg: 1-2. Att: 25,000. Ref: Dilek (Tur)
Valur Reykjavik 1 (Albertsson 70 pen)
Magdeburg 1 (Steinbach 58)
HT: 0-0. Att: 5,800. Ref: Mulhall (Rep. Ire.)

Zaglebie Sonowiecz 2 (Zarychta 14, Szarynski 57)
SSW Innsbruck 3 (P. Koncilia 22, Oberacher 38, Braschler 88)
HT: 1-2. Att: 18,000. Ref: Bjorck (Swe).

Second legs
(Played Sept. 27, unless stated)
U.S. Luxembourg 1 (Telgen 22)
Bodoe Glimt 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 1,000. Ref: Geurds (Hol). Played: Sept 12.
Bodoe 4-2 on agg.

Continued overleaf

continued from previous page

Aberdeen 3 (Strachan 63, Jarvie 75, Harper 81)
Marek Stanke Dimitrov 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 24,000. Ref: Keizer (Hol).
Aberdeen 5-3 on agg.

Marek massed in defence and with goalkeeper Stoyanov equal to shots from Sullivan and McClelland and top scorer Joe Harper twice badly off target, it seemed a policy which would pay off. However in the 58th minute Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson took off Sullivan and sent on Gordon Strachan, and five minutes later the substitute pulled Aberdeen level on aggregate and head on away goals. Marek had to attack, and as they did, so Drew Jarvie and Harper took advantage to send the Scots through.

Apoel Nicosia 0
Shamrock Rovers 2 (Lynex 88)
HT: 0-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Vlajic (Yug).
Shamrock 3-0 on agg.

Ballymena 0
Beveren 3 (Janssens 80 and 82, Wissmann 89)
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,000. Ref: Gudmundsson (Iceland).
Beveren 6-0 on agg.

German midfielder Heinz Schoenberger was the star for the Belgians, setting up both goals scored by skipper Jean Janssens in the late three-goal burst which emphasised their domination of the tie. Substitute Wissmann got the third in the final minute. Earlier full back Liam Butcher cleared off the line after goalkeeper Bobby Brown was beaten by a shot from Irwin Albert.

Banik Ostrava 1 (Licka 56)
Sporting Lisbon 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 5,000. Ref: Hunting (Eng).
Banik 2-0 on agg.

Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Bommer 38)
Uni. Craiova 1 (Marcu 65)
HT: 1-0. Att: 8,000. Ref: Krchnak (Cz).
Fortuna 5-4 on agg.

SSW Innsbruck 1 (Koterwa 11 own goal)
Zaglebie Sosnowiecz 1 (Dworczyk 26)
HT: 1-1. Att: 11,000. Ref: Palotai (Hun).
Innsbruck 4-3 on agg.

Internazionale 5 (Muraro 32 and 70, Chierico 33, Fedele 68 and 89)
Floriana 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Koulades (Cyprus).
Inter 8-1 on agg.

Ipswich 2 (Mariner 3, Wark 89 pen)
Alkmaar 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,814. Ref: Van Langenhove (Bel).
Ipswich 2-0 on agg.

Paul Mariner put Ipswich ahead after Alkmaar failed to clear a Clive Woods corner. Alkmaar's new goalkeeper Gerrit Vooys made good saves from Mills and Brian Talbot, but in midfield the Dutch, led by Jan Peters, were far too laborious. John Wark got the ball in the net, but the score was disallowed for offside, while the nearest Alkmaar came was an effort from Ronnie Spelbos well stopped by Paul Cooper after a Peter Ressel corner. It was Spelbos, however, who conceded the last-minute penalty, tripping Mariner — though the Dutch protested vehemently before Wark put the kick away.

Kalmar FF 2 (Magnusson 19 pen, Nyberg 27)
Ferencvaros 2 (Ebedli 76, Szokolai 80)
HT: 2-0. Att: 2,290. Ref: Mattsson (Fin).
Ferencvaros 4-2 on agg.

Magdeburg 4 (Seguin 8, Steinbach 43, Hoffmann 44, Streich 70)
Valur Reykjavik 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 26,500. Ref: Suchmanek (Pol).
Magdeburg 5-1 on agg.

Nancy 4 (Curbelo 2, Jeannol 62, 77, Zenier 87)
Frem Copenhagen 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: De Almeida (Port).
Nancy 4-2 on agg.

Servette 4 (Pfister 14, Hamberg 76, Elia 85 and 88)
PAOK Salonika 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Padar (Hun).
Servette 4-2 on agg.

Shakter Donetz 1 (Reznik 1)
Barcelona 1 (Kranki 34)
HT: 1-1. Att: 45,000. Ref: Eriksson (Swe)
Barcelon 4-1 on agg.

Wrexham 2 (McNeil 53, Cartwright 64)
Rijeka 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 10,469. Ref: Rollos (Lux).
Rijeka 3-2 on agg.

Peter Williams and Dixie McNeil both missed gaping chances early on before McNeil put Wrexham in with faint hope of a fighting reprieve. Les Cartwright made it 2-0 and Wrexham thought they had squared it when Mickey Thomas had a shot kicked off the line by Rijeka skipper Radin. In the last minute skipper Gareth Davis had a shot deflected out of goal by McNeil. But that Wrexham should come so close was only thanks to two fine first-half saves from goalkeeper Dai Davies.

UEFA CUP
First round — first legs
(All played Sept 13 unless stated)

IBV Vestmannaer 0
Glentoran 0
Att: 1,500. Ref: Valentine (Scot). Played Sept 5, Reykjavik.

This match was originally due to be played at IBV's home in the volcanic Westman islands, but was switched to Reykjavik after UEFA officians inspected the ground.

Finn Harps 0
Everto 5 (Thomas 10, King 14 and 48, Latchford 62, Walsh 64)
HT: 0-2. Att: 5,000. Ref: Delmer (F). Played Sept 12.

Only a lucky stop by substitute goalkeeper Joe Harper prevented England under-21 man Andy King completing his hat-trick in Everton's takeover of Ballybofey.

Standard Liege 1)Denier 40)
Dundee Utd 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Fausek (Cz). Played Sept 12, Ghent.

Crowd trouble at the Sclessin stadium last season and a UEFA ban forced Standard to switch this match to Ghent. Dundee were forced by injuries to use both substitutes in the first half, when Standard also scored the only goal — Mathier Danier pouncing after Helmut Graf's shot was blocked.

Honved 6 (Lukacs 16, Weimper 64, 67, Gyimesi 65, Bodonyi 78, Nagy 88)
Adanasapor 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 6,000. Ref: Mehmet Myshku (Alb). Played Sept 14.

Olympiakos Piraeur 2 ((Kritikopoulos 51, Kaltsas 76)
Levski-Spartak Sofia 1 (Barsov 43)
HT: 0-1. Att: 30,000. Ref: Daina (Swz). Played Sept 14.

Pezoporikos Larnaca 2 (Theofanous 40 and 64)
Slask Wroclaw 2 (Pawlowski 44 pen, Sybis 86)
HT: 1-1. Att: 9,000. Ref: Mateev (Bul). Played Sept 16.

Arges Pitesti 3 (Toma 19, Miceanu 75 and 89)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,000. Ref: Mathias (Aus).

Arsenal 3 (Stapleton 68, 69, Sunderland 81)
Lok. Leipzig 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 34,233. Ref: Thime (Norway).

Dieter Kuhn wasted as early chance for Leipzig who lost international defender Gunter Sekora through injury in the 21st minute. Frank Stapleton headed home in the 26th minute but the goal was disallowed for pushing and Alan Sunderland hit the post after 40 minutes. Arsenal played patient football, and after Liam Brady hit the bar early in the second half, the goals began to flow. Brady's free kick and then substitute Mark Heeley's long cross sent Stapleton in to score twice, and it was after a fine save by Stotzner which prevented his hat-trick that Sunderland nipped in for Arsenal's third.

Basel 2 (Stohler 30, Tanner 78)
VfB Stuttgart 3 (D. Hoeness 44, Ohlicher 54 and 70)
HT: 1-1. Att: 25,100. Ref: McGinlay (Scot).

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Churruca 9, Vidal 58)
Ajax Amsterdam 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 42,500. Ref: Horstmann (WG).

Ajax were hopping mad — and even sent a vain protest to UEFA — about the second goal, which Vidal's shot clearly came back off the bar without going anywhere near the net or even the line! Even the Spaniards couldn't believe it.

Borussia Mg 5 (Bruns 4 and 89, Gores 48, Nielsen 68, Simonsen 88)
Sturm Braz 1 (Jurtin 11)
HT: 1-1. Att: 10,000. Ref: Galler (Swz).

Sporting Braga 5 (Chico Gordo 2, 15, 74)
HT: 3-0. Att: 35,000. Ref: Tomeo (Sp).

Carl Zeiss Jena 1 (Toepfer 25)
Lierse 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 12,000. Ref: Lamo Castill

CSKA Sofia 2 (Djevizov 7, Hristov 54)
Valencia 1 (Solsona 71)
HT: 1-0. Att: 40,000. Ref: Thomas (Wal
Argentine World Cup star Mario found himself far from Bueonis Aires in — he missed a 39th minute penalty.

Dukla Praha 1 (Nehoda 6)
Lanerossi Vicenza 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 12,000. Ref: Beck (Hol).

Narrow win for Dukla, whose cent Ludek Macela put Vicenza's World C Paolo Rossi out of football for two mon one crippling tackle.

BFC Dynamo E. Berlin 5 (Riediger 17, Netz 19, Brillat 89)
Red Star Belgrade 2 (Sestic 35, Savic 3
HT: 3-2. Att: 26,000. Ref: Menegali (It).

Elfsborg 2 (Svensson 17, Magnusson 43
Strasbourg 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 3,383. Ref: Amundsen (Den

Galatasaray 1 (Fatih 88 pen)
West Bromwich Albion 3 (Roms Cunningham 63 and 69)
HT: 0-1. Att: 55,000. Ref: Kolossi (Rum). in Izmir.

The game was 20 minutes late st because Albion's team bus was caugh traffic jam, but they were soon on top. Go forced a good 15th-minute save from Godden, but that was virtually the last look Turks had.

Gijon 3 (Ferrero 3, Moran 11 and 66)
Torino 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Wohrer (Aus).

Hadjuk Split 2 (Cop 30, Luketin 89)
Rapid Vienna 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 22,500. Ref: Bonelt (Malta).

Hertha W. Berlin 0
Trakia Plovdiv 0
Att: 5,000. Ref: Hunting (Eng).

Hibernian tried their best to blow this g MacLeod wasted two chances and Higgins h goal disallowed for offside and hit the bar be finally scoring. Even then the Scots let Swedes fight back to 2-2 before Higgins grab the winner.

Jeunesse d'Esch 0
Lausanne 0
Att: 2,000. Ref: Vautrot (F).

Kuopio Palloseura 2 (Monkkonen 16, Heiska 73)
B1903 Copenhagen 1 (Haarbye 41)
HT: 1-1. Att: 646 (?). Ref: Fredriksson (Swe)

Milan 1 (Novellino 24)
Lok. Kosice 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 65,000. Ref: Scerry (Malta).

Moscow Torpedo 4 (Vasilyev 5, Mironov Grismin 78, Suchilin 86)
Molde 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 35,000. Ref: Tokat (Tur).

MSV Duisburg 5 (Jara 21, Worm 23, 37, Alha 32, Bussers 88)
Lech Poznan 0
HT: 4-0. Att: 8,000. Ref: Homewood (Eng).

Nantes 0
Benfica 2 (Chalana 34, Nene 41)
HT: 0-2. Att: 12,128. Ref: Ponnet (Bel).

Even Fernando Chalana's 81st-minu expulsion for violent play couldn't overshado the crisis growing around Nantes. Havin narrowly missed the league title last seaso coach Jean Vincent suddenly came under fi for allowing himself to underrate th Portuguese.

Politechnica Timisoara 2 (Cotec 10, Paltinisa 55)
MTK/VM Budapest 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,000. Ref: Scheurell (EG).

Start Kristiansand 0
Esbjerg 0
Att: 1,417. Ref: Pelkola (Fin).

Dynamo Tbilisi 2 (Kipiani 37, Shengelia 49)
Napoli 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 52,000. Ref: Bucek (Aus).

Twente Enschede 1 Thoresen 50)
Manchester City 1 (Watson 24)
HT: 0-1. Att: 23,500. Ref: Franco Martinez (Sp).
A spectacular header from England centre back Dave Watson saw City safely into control early on and only a fine save by Twente reserve goalkeeper Pasveer kept out a Peter Barnes shot. Roger Palmer hit the bar too, but later in the game Twente stormed back, guided from the back by Epi Drost, and Joe Corrigan earned his money in the City goal. He was beaten only by the free kick of Halvar Thoresen, after Watson had fouled the Norwegian international. Sadly 13 City fans were held by police after vandalism in Enschede before the game.

Second legs
(Played Sept 27 unless stated)

Glentoran 1 (Caskey 44)
IBV Vestmannaer 1 (Oskarsson 89)
HT: 1-0. Att: 5,000. Ref: Van Ettekoven (Hol). Played Sept 14.
IBV win on away goal — 1-1 on agg.
It was a night of farewells for Glentoran in more ways than one. Billy Caskey and Vic Moreland were playing their last games before transferring to Derby, and it was Caskey's brother John who scored who looked likely to be the winner. However in inuury time full back Orn Oskarsson, who had been switched into attack, grabbed a controversial equaliser which was brought to provide a vital away goal for the Icelanders, who stunned even themselves by qualifying. Elimination was not the only bad news for Glentoran. Their vain claim that Oskarsson had punched the ball over the line sparked a minor pitch invasion and an enraged Irish fan struck IBV defender Fied Finnbogasson over the head with a flag. The player needed hospital treatment, while Glentoran ran the gauntlet of UEFA action.

Hibernian Malta 3 (Mizzi 20 pen and 61 pen, Gonzi 86)
Sporting Braga 2 (Gordo 29, Ronaldo 35)
HT: 1-2. Att: 3,000. Ref: Fahnler (Aus). Played Sept 20.
Braga 7-3 on agg
Levsky-Spartak 3 (Milev 47, Panov 52, Voinov 96 pen)
Olympiakos Piraeus 1 (Ptaltsas 60).
HT: 0-1. 90 mins: 2-1. Att: 40,000. Ref: Casarin (It). Played Sept 28.
Levsky 4-3 on agg.
Two Greeks and one Bulgarian were sent off in the decisive half-hour of extra time.

Lausanne 2 (Diserens 39, Sampedro 76)
Jeunesse d'Esch 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 4,000. Ref: Jourquin (Bel). Played: Sept 26.
Lausanne 2-0 on agg.
Jeunesse d'Esch had international defender Bernard Mond sent off in the 53rd minute for dangerous play.

Everton 5 (King 21, Latchford 25, Walsh 53, Ross 60, Dobson 63)
Finn Harps 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 21,611. Ref: Christov (Cz). Played Sept 26.
Everton 10-0 on agg.
King struck in a 25-yarder, then Bob Latchford headed in a Thomas corner to underline Everton's superiority. In the second half Mick Walsh scored easily after goalkeeper Harper going for a back pass, Ross scored a solo and finally, just after Mahon had substituted in goal for Harper, Dobson banged in Walsh's centre for No 5.

Adanaspor 2 (Irfan 44, Necip 56)
Honved 2 (Lukacs 24, Pinter 54)
HT: 1-1. Att: 6,000. Ref: Parmokov (Bul).
Honved 8-2 on agg.

Ajax Amsterdam 3 (Clarke 38 pen, 55, Lerby 89)
Athletic Bilbao 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 30,000. Ref: Partridge (Eng).
Ajax 3-2 on agg.

Benfica 0
Nantes 0
Att: 45,000. Ref: Kindervater (WG)
Benfica 2-0 on agg.

B1903 Copenhagen 4 (Kristiansen 14, Jensen 19, Larsen 20 pen, Damm 82)
Kuopion Palloseura 4 (Heisman 9, Keiskanen 15, Tapani 27, Rautio 82)
HT: 3-3. Att: 1,500. Ref: Oberg (Nor).
Kuopion 6-5 on agg.

Dundee Utd 0
Standard Liege 0
Att: 9,500. Ref: Kirschen (EG).
Standard 1-0 on agg.

Though Michel Preud'homme in the Standard goal looked unhappy at dealing with high crosses, Dundee made little serious attempt to exploit his anxiety. Kopel got the ball past him in the 25th minute, but Dodds was penalised for fouling the goalkeeper and the nearest Dundee came after that was in the 74 minute when Preud'homme dropped a shot from Narey at Fleming's feet, only for the substitute to shoot wide.

Esbjerg 1 (Iversen 65)
Start Kristiansand 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,700. Ref: R. Ericsson (Swe).
Esbjerg 1-0 on agg.

Lanerossi Vicenza 1 (Briaschi 14)
Dukla Praha 1 (Roselli 50 own goal)
HT: 1-0. Att: 17,000. Ref: Einbeck (EG).
Dukla 2-1 on agg.
Dukla's reserve goalkeeper Karel Stromsik even saved a penalty as the Czechoslovaks squeezed into the second round.

Lech Poznan 2 (Kasalik 34, Okonski 83)
MSV Duisburg 5 (Worm 2 and 72, Bussers 4, Fenten 30, Buttgereit 71)
HT: 1-3. Att: 5,500. Ref: Raus (Yug).
MSV 10-2 on agg.

Lierse 2 (Bosch 40 and 50)
Carl Zeiss Jena 2 (Lindemann 56, Topfer 81 pen)
HT: 1-0. Att: 13,000. Ref: Fotte (Scot).
Carl Zeiss 3-2 on agg.

Lok. Leipzig 1 (Stapleton 71 own goal)
Arsenal 4 (Brady 19 pen, Sunderland 52, Stapleton 63 and 67)
HT: 0-1. Att: 22,000. Ref: Manojlovski (Yug).
Arsenal 7-1 on agg.
Arsenal cruised through in the rain with Frank Stapleton scoring an unusual hat-trick. Liam Brady scored Arsenal's first from a penalty after Wilfried Grobeer handled a cross from European debutant John Devine. Sigfried Stoessner went the right way, but the ball slipped through his fingers. Stapleton took over in the second half though Hanns-Jurgen Kinne twice went close for Leipzig at the midway point.

Lok. Kosice 1 (Kozak 81)
Milan 0
HT: 1-0. 90 mins: 1-0. Att: 30,000. Renggli (Swz)
Milan win 7-6 on pens — 1-1 on agg.

Manchester City 3 (Wildschut 8 own goal, Kidd 70, Bell 84)
Twente Enshede 2 (Overweg 49, Gritter 85)
HT: 1-0. Att: 29,000. Ref: Laitanzi (It).
Man. City 4-3 on agg.
City went ahead when World Cup defender Piet Wildschut diverted home a Gary Owen shot but Twente refused to go down quietly and hit back with a Niels Overweg free kick. Brian Kidd, playing his first game for a month, restored City's lead and Colin Bell, substituting for injured Colin Viljoen, increased it. But when Ab Gritter immediately pulled one back City had to survive an anxious last few minutes as Twente sought desperately for the goal that would have put them through on the away goal rule.

Molde 3 (Brakstad 43, Bjornaa 53, Fuglset 87)
Torpedo Moscow 3 (Vasilyev 26 and 71, Sushkin 81)
HT: 1-1. Att: 2,813. Ref: Grey (Eng).
Torpedo 7-3 on agg.

MTK/VM Budapest 2 (Koritar 50, Nadu 67)
Pl. Timisoara 1 (Petrescu 77)
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,000. Ref: Mateev (Bul).
Timisoara 3-2 on agg.

Napoli 1 (Savoldi 80 pen)
Dynamo Tbilisi 1 (Daraselia 65)
HT: 0-0. Att: 70,000. Ref: Vigliani (F).
Tbilisi 3-1 on agg.
Police with batons stepped in as fans tried to storm the gates before the kick-off in the sell-out San Paolo stadium. Fans hit back with bottles and stone.

Norrkoping 0
Hibernian 0
Att: 1,260. Ref: Srodecki (Pol).
Hibernian 3-2 on agg.
Hibs held out in the rain and mud, virtually playing the Swedes' top scorer, Per-Olof Ohlsson, out of the match. Hibs' best chance came 15 minutes from the end when MacLeod broke through, but delayed his shot too long. A minute before he had been brought down by Thomas Malm, but referee Srodecki waved play on. Off-the-field speculation was already rife that Eddie Burnbull, Hibs' manager, might be among front-runners to take over as Scotland boss from Ally MacLeod, who had just quit.

Panathinaikos 1 (Gonios 51)
Arges Pitesti 2 (Duru 55, Radu 68)
HT: 0-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Jarguz (Pol).
Arges 5-1 on agg.

Rapid Vienna 2 (Krejcirik 73, Francker 89)
Hajduk Split 1 (Zungul 24)
HT: 0-1. Att: 25,000. Ref: Franco Martinez (Sp).
Hajduk 3-2 on agg.

Red Star Belgrade 4 (Savic 58 and 89, Borvnica 70 and 80)
Dynamo E. Berlin 1 (Riediger 12)
HT: 0-1. Att: 50,000. Ref: Kuti (Hun).
Red Star on away goals — 6-6 on agg.
One of the most remarkable of European comebacks by specialists in that field. From the 12th to 57th minutes Red Star were four down on aggregate, winning the tie from that apparently impossible position in the last 32 minutes!

Slask Wroclaw 5 (Gariowski 12, Faber 31, Olesiak 36, Kwiatkowski 61, Sybis 87)
Pezoporikos 1 (Lambru 13)
HT: 3-1. Att: 20,000. Ref: Volker Roth (WG)
Slask 7-3 on agg.

Strasbourg 4 (Piasecki 7, Tanter 27, Marx 74, Wagner 80)
Elfsborg 1 (Ahlstrom 41)
HT: 2-1. Att: 12,000. Ref: Owen (Wales).
Strasbourg 4-3 on agg.

Sturm Graz 1 (Schilcher 66)
Borussia Mg 2 (Simonsen 5, Bruns 50)
HT: 0-1. Att: 6,000. Ref: Shklovski (R).
Borussia Mg 7-2 o agg.

VfB Stuttgart 4 (Kelsch 23, 48 and 68, Muller 64)
Basel 1 (Pie 33)
HT: 1-1. Att: 23,000. Ref: Stupar (R).
Stuttgart 7-3 on agg.

Torino 1 Graziani 65)
Gijon 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 30,000. Ref: Nagy (Hun).
Gijon 3-6 on agg.

Trakia Plovdiv 1 (Argirov 49)
Hertha W. Berlin 2 (Granitza 23 and 42)
HT: 0-2. Att: 33,000. Ref: Baumann (Swz).
Hertha 2-1 on agg.

Valencia 4 (Saura 16 and 82, Felman 54, Kempes 78)
CSKA Sofia 1 (Hristov 17)
HT: 1-1. Att: 42,000. Ref: Kitabdjian (F).
Valencia 5-3 on agg.

West Bomwich Albion 3 (Robson 33, Cnningham 39 pen, Trewick 47)
Galatasaray 1 (Turgay 44)
HT: 2-1. Att: 22,380. Ref: A. Garrido (Port).
West Bromwich 6-2 on agg.
Black winger Laurie Cunningham moved closer to a historic first cap for England with his display at The Hawthorns. Goalkeeper Bahatin was forced to stretch by Cunningham, Len Cantello and John Trewick before a Brendan Batson cross set up the first goal for Bryan Robson. And it was a foul on Robson by the goalkeeper that led to Cunningham's second, from a spot kick. At half-time it was clearly all over for the Turks, whose coach Coskun Ozari, had never admitted anyway to much hope of pulling back the deficit.

SECOND ROUND DRAW
(October 19 and November 1)

Champions' Cup: **AEK Athens v Nottingham Forest — Rangers v PSV Eindhoven — Dynamo Kelv v Malmoe — Lok. Sofia v 1st FC Koln — Real Madrid v Grasshoppers — Bohemians v Dynamo Dresden — Zbrojovka Brno v Wisla Krakow — Austria Vienna v Lillestrom.**

Cup-winners' Cup: **Banik Ostrava v Shamrock Rovers — Ipswich v SSW Innsbruck — Servette v Nacy — Anderlecht (holders) v Barcelona — Internazionale v Bodoe Glimt — Fortuna Dusseldorf v Aberdeen — Rijeka v Beveren — Magdeburg v Ferencvaros.**

UEFA Cup: **Benfica v Borussia Mg (wnd leg Oct 2 or 3) — Everton v Dukla — Arges Pitesti v Valencia — Ajax v Lausanne — Braga v West Bromwich — Torpedo Moscos v VfB Stuttgart — Strasbourg v Hibernian — Gijon v Red Star Belgrade Carl Zeiss Jena v MSV Duisburg — Juopion Palloseura v Esbjerg — IBV v Slask — Man. City v Standard Liege — Honved v Politechnica Timisoara — Hertha W. Berlin v Dynamo Tbilisi — Hajeuk Split v Arsenal — Levsky-Spartak v Milan (1st leg October 17 or 19).**

LEAGUE TABLES

Action from a Spanish League match between Atletico Madrid and Rayo Vallecano. Ruben Cano (left) of Atletico against Tanco of Rayo. Atletico Madrid won 3-1.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Strasbourg	14	8	6	0	24	8	22
Monaco	15	9	2	4	32	18	20
Sochaux	14	8	3	3	29	18	19
St-Etienne	15	8	3	4	33	18	19
Lyon	15	7	4	4	27	17	18
Metz	15	7	3	5	20	22	17
Nimes	15	6	4	5	25	21	16
Nantes	15	6	4	5	22	18	16
Bordeaux	15	4	8	3	16	13	16
Lille	15	5	6	4	31	31	16
ParisSt-Ger	15	5	5	5	21	21	15
Laval	15	3	8	4	24	25	14
Bastia	15	6	2	7	26	28	14
Valenciennes	15	5	3	7	15	19	13
Angers	15	5	3	7	15	31	13
Marseille	15	4	4	7	22	27	12
Nancy	15	4	3	8	28	25	11
Nice	15	4	2	9	26	39	10
Paris	15	3	3	9	15	34	9
Reims	15	1	6	8	9	27	8

PORTUGAL

Porto	6	5	0	1	13	4	10
Sporting	6	4	1	1	11	5	9
Braga	6	4	0	2	10	6	8
Varzim	6	3	2	1	10	7	8
Guimaraes	6	3	0	3	11	8	6
Boavista	6	3	0	3	9	7	6
Benfica	6	3	0	3	7	5	6
Belenenses	6	3	0	3	11	10	6
Barreirense	6	3	0	3	7	6	6
A Coimbra	6	2	2	2	5	5	6
Famalicao	6	2	2	2	4	7	6
Maritimo F'chal	6	2	0	4	7	10	4
Estoril	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Setubal	6	2	0	4	5	10	4
Viseu	6	2	0	4	3	10	4
Beira-Mar	6	1	1	4	6	15	3

HOLLAND

Ajax	9	8	0	1	31	7	16
PSV Eindhoven	9	6	1	2	22	6	13
Roda JC Kerk.	9	5	3	1	17	5	13
Twente Ens.	9	3	6	0	13	7	12
Feyenoord	9	3	4	2	12	6	10
Go Ahead Dev.	9	3	4	2	12	10	10
Sparta R'dam	9	4	2	3	12	11	10
NEC Nijmegen	8	1	7	0	7	4	9
AZ'67 Alkmaar	9	4	1	4	27	20	9
MVV Maastricht	9	3	3	3	6	10	9
NAC Breda	9	2	4	3	15	23	8
Volendam	9	2	2	5	10	15	6
Den Haag	9	1	4	4	5	11	6
PEC Zwolle	9	0	6	3	5	12	6
Vitesse Arnhem	9	1	4	4	9	19	6
Haarlem	9	1	4	4	8	21	6
VVV Venlo	9	2	2	5	4	22	6
Utrecht	8	1	3	4	7	13	5

ENGLAND

Liverpool	10	9	1	0	33	4	19
Everton	10	6	4	0	13	5	16
Notts Forest	10	4	6	0	14	8	14
W Brom	10	5	3	2	18	10	13
Man City	10	5	3	2	17	10	13
Man United	10	4	5	1	14	13	13
Coventry	10	4	4	2	14	10	12
Tottenham	10	4	3	3	10	18	11
Arsenal	10	3	4	3	15	12	10
Aston Villa	10	3	4	3	13	10	10
Bristol City	10	4	2	4	11	12	10
Norwich	10	3	3	4	18	18	9
Queens P.R.	10	3	3	4	8	11	9
Leeds	10	3	2	4	16	16	8
Ipswich	10	3	2	5	11	13	8
Southampton	10	2	4	4	13	17	8
Bolton	10	3	2	5	16	22	8
Derby	10	3	2	5	10	19	8
Middlesbrough	10	3	2	6	13	17	6
Wolverhampton	10	3	0	7	8	16	6
Chelsea	10	2	2	6	12	21	6
Birmingham	10	0	3	7	6	21	3

KEVIN KEEGAN

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